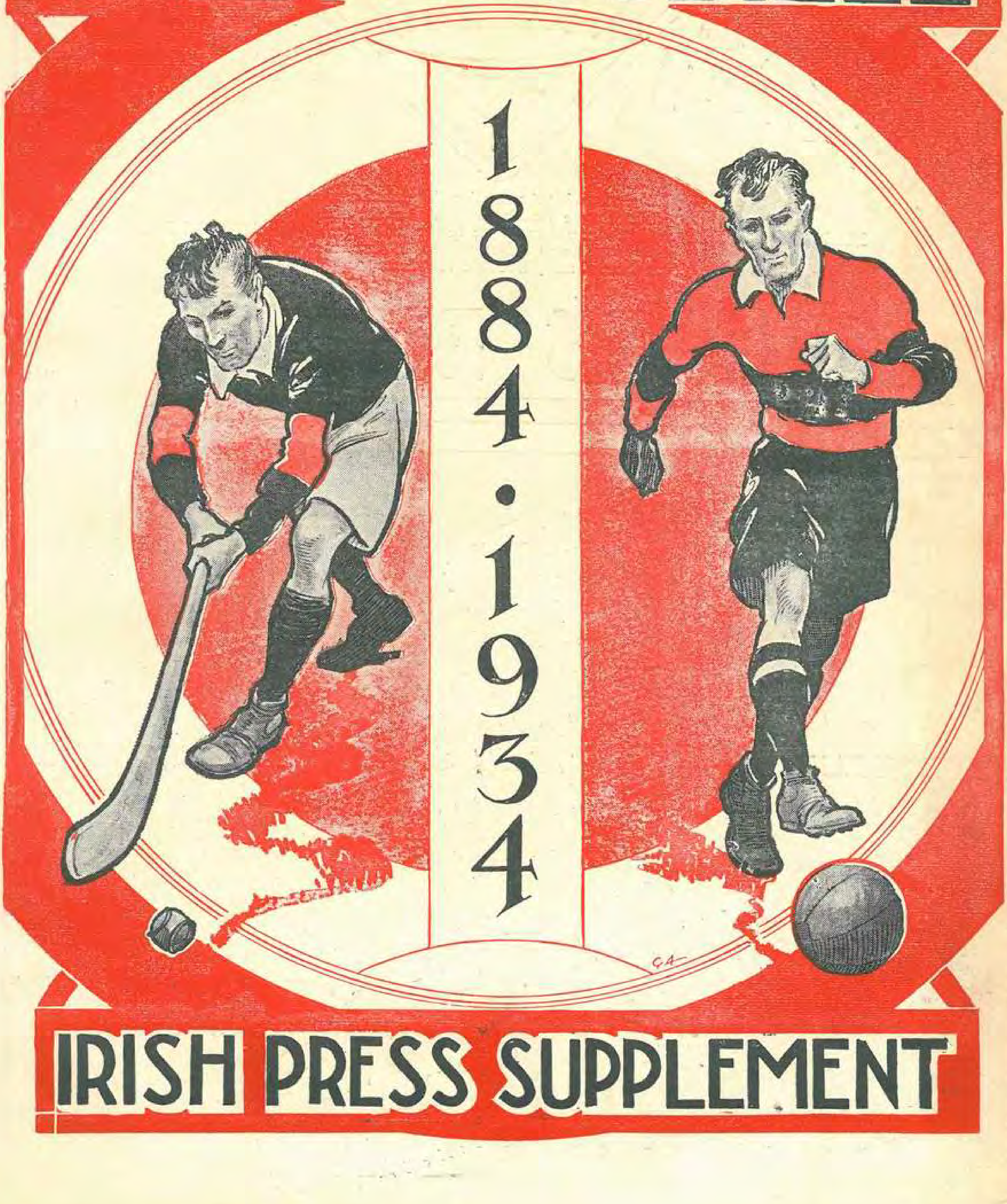
Iubaile leaṫ-ċéad blian
Ċumainn na lúiṫ-ċleas nGaeḋealaċ

G·A·A
GOLDEN JUBILEE



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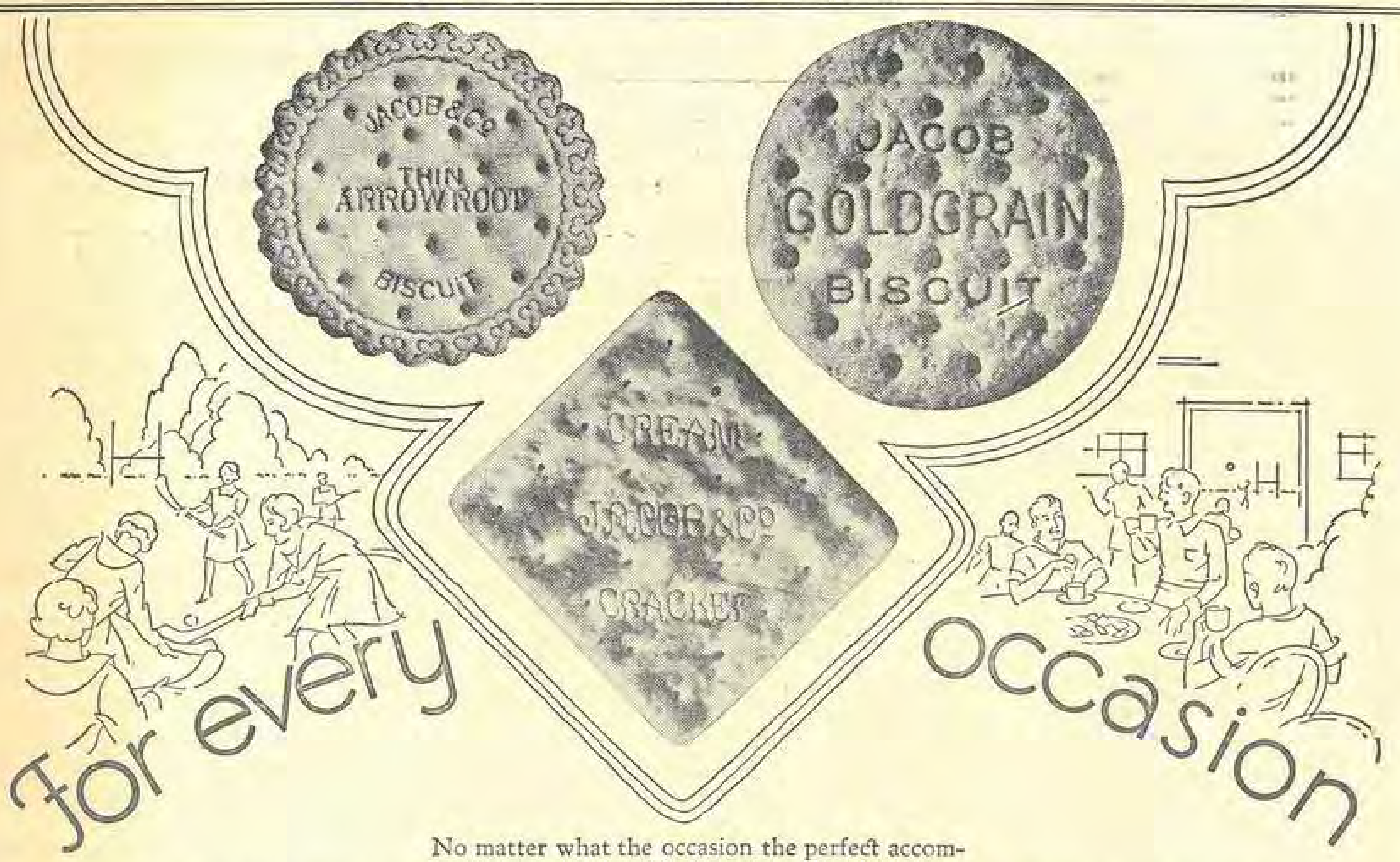

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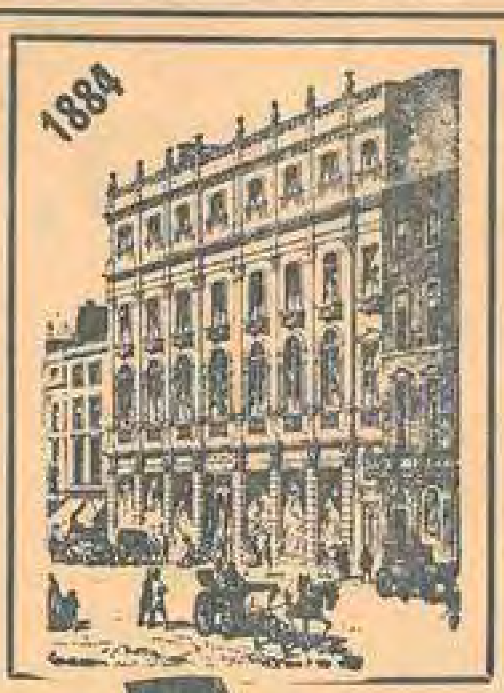

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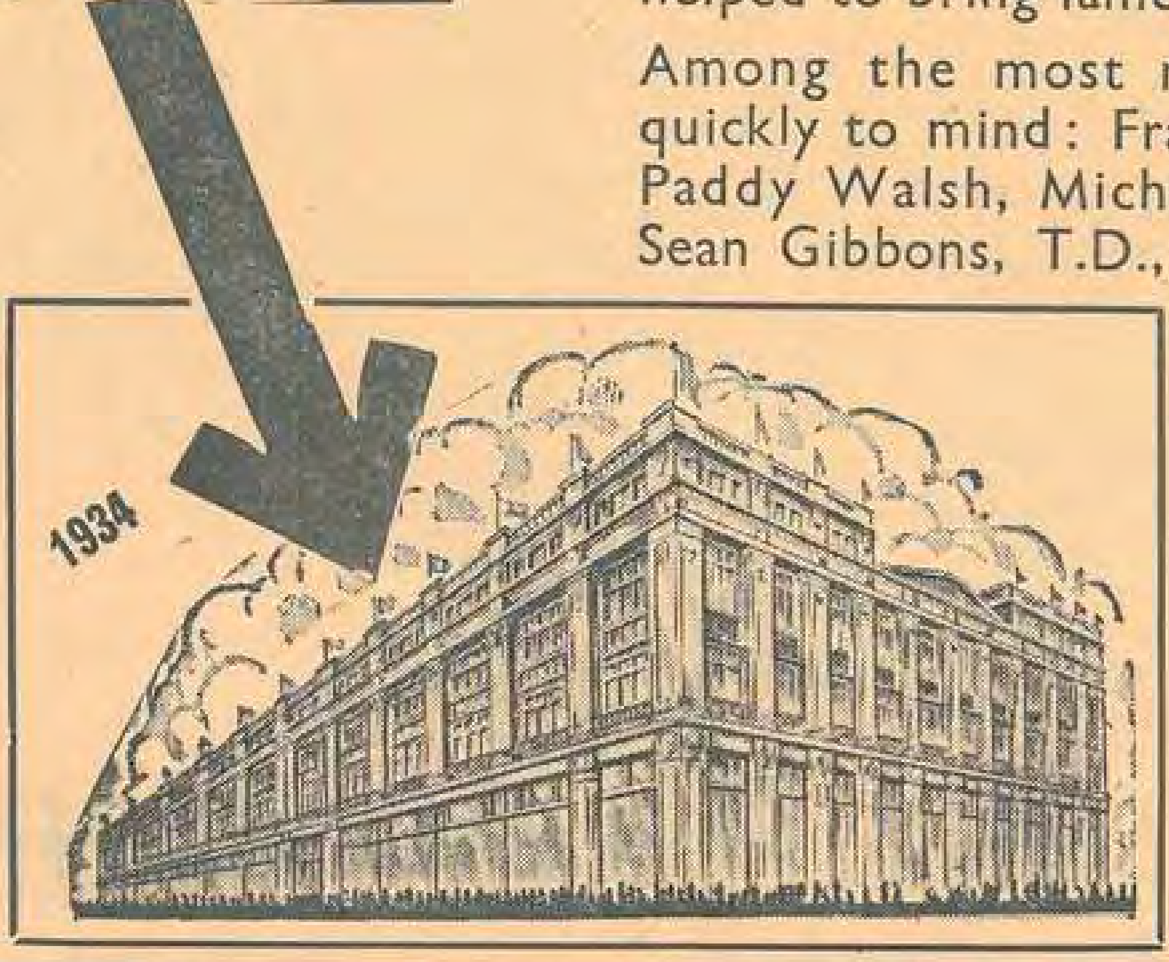

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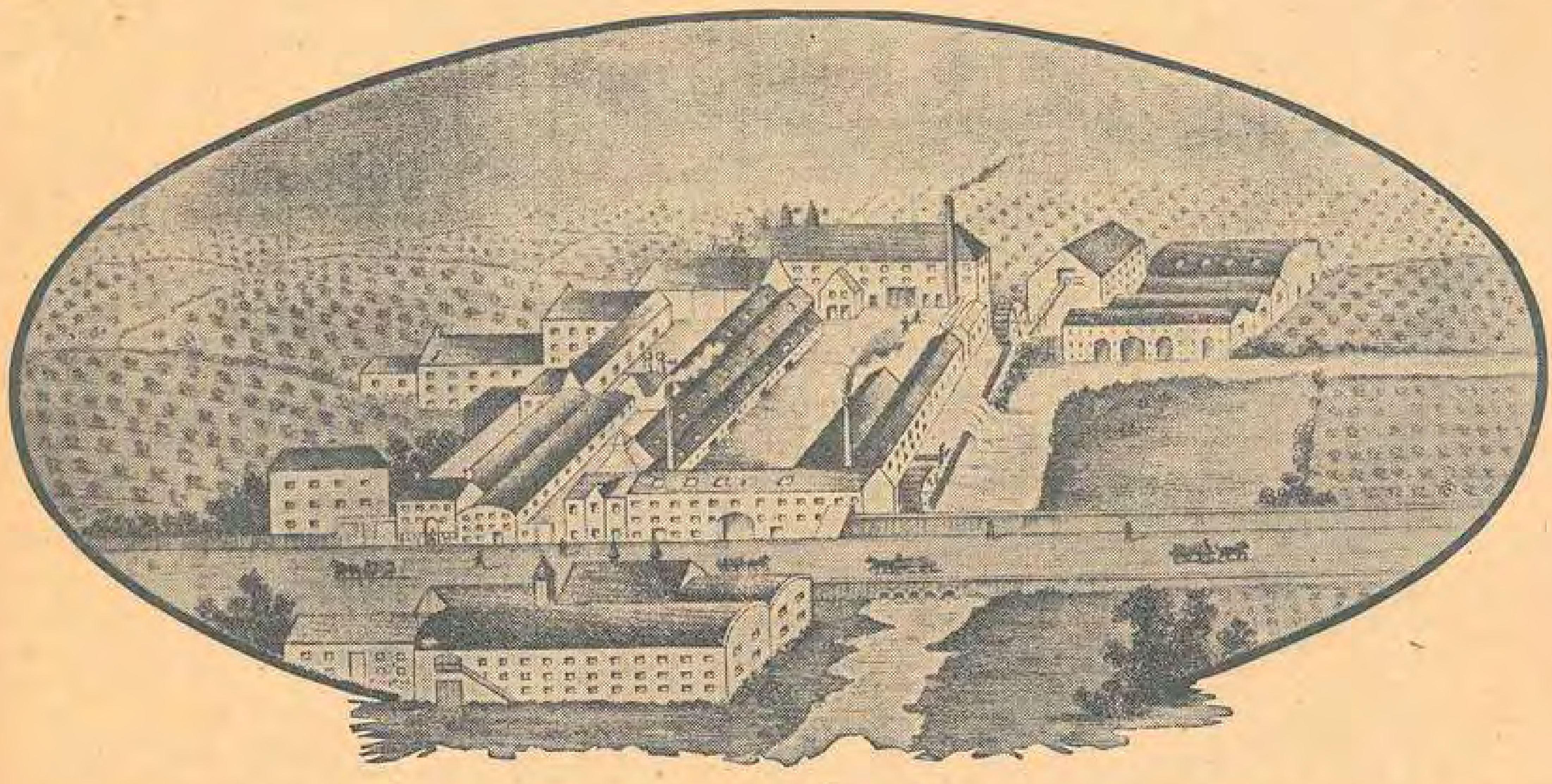

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THEY GAVE US THE IRELAND OF TO-DAY

1884

1934

HAD the seven sowers of the seed, which to-day has grown into one of the greatest athletic movements in the world, a full conception of what their work would bring forth? We believe they had; some of them at least. For it was from their depth of understanding of this nation and its need to battle for life that their actions came

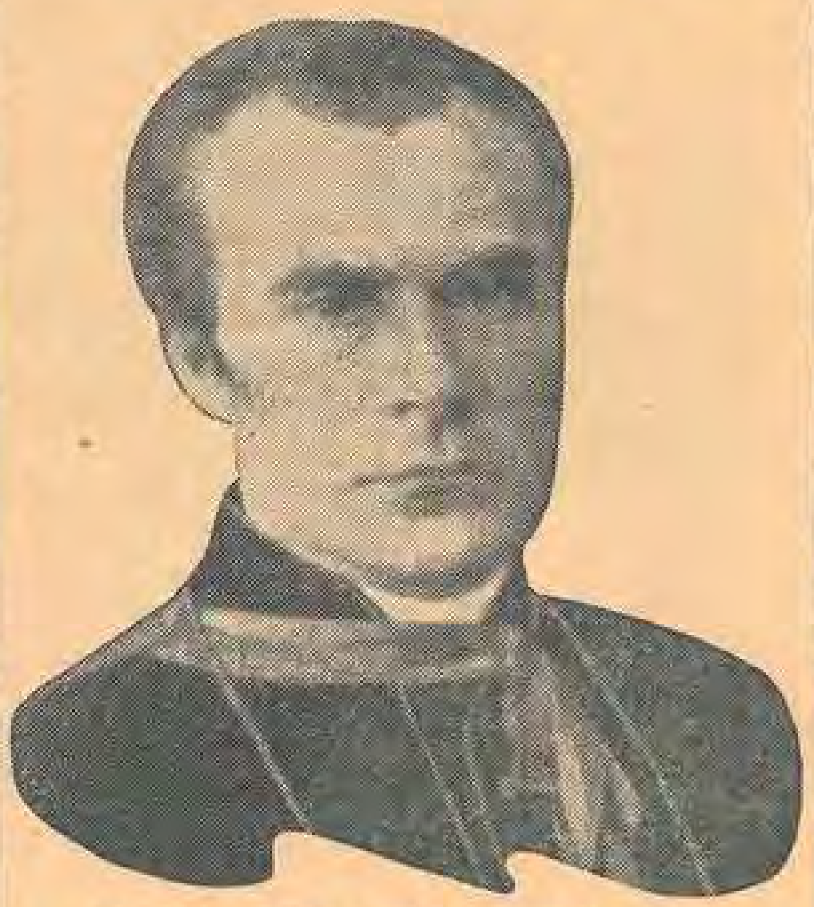
Undoubtedly they saw beyond their time. They lived in an hour when Ireland was again resurgent, after the devastation of famine, the apparent failure of the Fenian Rising, and the devitalisation of such emigration as no country had ever known before.

* * * * * *

THE Land Wars, properly interpreted, were nothing less than a War of Independence, a national insurrection. In that decade before the Parnell Split engulfed so much effort and so much hope, Ireland thrilled to the same feelings, the men and women hardened themselves to the same endurance and self-sacrifice as were asked of the Republican men and women of the years before and after 1916. The whole nation was then, as it was thirty-five years later, in a state of exaltation. At such an hour sensitive minds everywhere see into the future with a strange and accurate prevision. So we believe those who met in Thurles saw. They knew that the seed must be sown now, and, perhaps a little sadly, they realised that it was another Ireland, an Ireland of to-morrow, which would reap the rich harvest. It is by its prophets, even more than by its statesmen or its soldiers, that a nation is uplifted and made great; and those who founded the Gaelic Athletic Association have proved their title to be named among our wisest prophets.

* * * * * *

SIX years after they had begun their mighty task, darkness came upon the land. The united nation fell into dissension and almost into despair. Brother denounced brother. The teams of the G.A.A. went this way and that way in the general cleavage. All that was so gloriously, so sturdily built was shaken to its deepest foundations. No, not all. Some clear-minded interpreter of our history will at some time measure the forces that drew us out of that pit of disunion and surely will place among the greatest that young Association which had already profoundly influenced the national life. Indeed, without the G.A.A., the recovery would probably never have been so swift or eventually so complete. Men and women who could not meet around a political platform began to meet in friendliness again around the playing fields. Brothers who had become estranged and bitter found in athletic effort and physical prowess a new bond and a noble forgetfulness. Out of that Thurles meeting of 1884 came in the 'nineties a second sowing of unity and brotherhood.



Archbishop Croke, first Patron of the G.A.A.

Beannaċt

Beannaċt buan le Gaeḋealaiḃ
le tuataiḃ is le cléirċiḃ,
le gaiscidiġ meara tréana,
A spreagaḋ le na meón;
Beannaċt beo le h-Éirinn—
Tírín dil na féile,
Saorfear í ó ḋaorḃruid,
Sgaoilfear í ó ḃrón.

* * * * * *

FROM the opening of this century the G.A.A. never looked back. It was to meet and survive even a greater division than the Parnell Split. Again without it, it is hard to conceive that the deeper wounds of the Civil War would have so greatly or so swiftly healed. Again in the playing pitches the divided brothers found an unbloody outlet for their rivalry and in that generous conflict recaptured their kinship and came to share again the great ideal.

* * * * * *

IT is fitting that it was at Easter-time the G.A.A. celebrated its Golden Jubilee—at the period of Resurrection and on the anniversary of the first great hour of that national uprising to which the G.A.A. gave so many soldiers and so generously of its spirit. At Thurles this Easter a nation gathered in thought around that room where seven men set their hand to a nation-building which has few parallels.

And what of the future? It is clear that the future of Ireland belongs to the young men of the G.A.A., to the vigorous, sportsmanlike, nationally-minded youth which, in the Minor, Junior and Senior teams, form throughout the nation something after the fashion of those old Irish clans which were a rampart against conquest that only centuries of force destroyed.

* * * * * *

THE Golden Jubilee finds the G.A.A. a hundred thousand strong. But not in numbers only is its influence to be measured. These hundred thousand young men are among the cream of the nation, among its best citizens, who not only in their own sphere "play the game," but seek for their people full victory in a wider conflict. In the years to come this great union of Gaels must of necessity progress; for the ending of emigration keeps within our shores all that splendid manhood whose going for a whole century left us weak. To-day they are with us, and as they meet on and around the playing fields of Gaelic Ireland, they will learn that their race is among the greatest and cleanest in the world, and that an unfree nation calls to them for the realisation of the unfulfilled ideal. The seven men who met in Thurles, the great Archbishop who gave them the Charter of Irish-Ireland, have created the pulsing Ireland of to-day, and still lead us to the independent Ireland of to-morrow.

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SEVEN MEN OF SEVEN TRADES

and

The Birth of the G. A. A.

On November 1, 1884, seven men met in a room in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles. There were—a schoolmaster, a policeman, an athlete, a building-contractor, a solicitor, an editor and a reporter. At that historic meeting the G.A.A. was born.

"UNTIL then everything was lonely an stagnant in the land, and the young men in their idle hours loitered in dull fashion by the street and fence corners . . . In a few months how different things became! The country was soon humming with interest and activity, the ambitions of the young men were aroused, every parish had its newly-formed hurling or football team, prepared to do or die for 'the honour of the little village.'"

So writes Father Dollard (Sliabh na mBan) on the Ireland before—and after—the Thurles decision.

On October 11, 1884, an article under the unassuming heading, "A Word About Irish Athletics," appeared in a Dublin paper, *United Ireland*, at that time edited by William O'Brien, M.P. The writer is said to have been Michael Cusack. The next issue brought a letter of appreciation. It was signed by Maurice Davin, of Deerpark, Tipperary. That week a circular was despatched to several places in Ireland, bearing the names of Cusack and Davin. The following were the men who responded to the call to Thurles:—

MICHAEL CUSACK,

The Founder of the G.A.A.

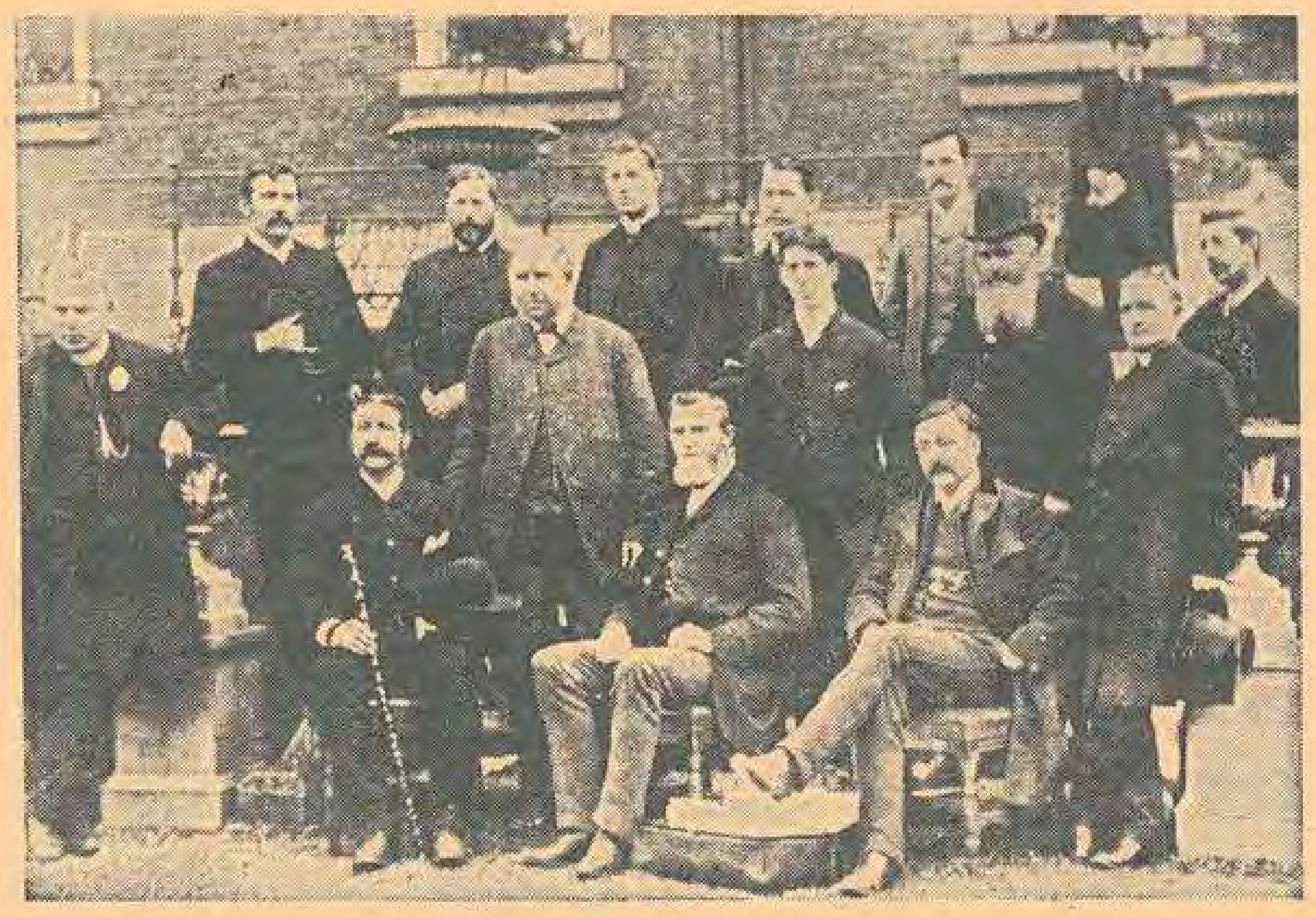
Born in Carron, Co. Clare, in 1847. Was a National Teacher. He was appointed professor of English and Mathematics in St. Colman's College, Newry, and afterwards in Blackrock College. Subsequently he taught in Clongowes Wood. At 4 Gardiner Place, Dublin, he conducted private tuition for preliminary examinations.

At this time, too, he conducted a Civil Service column in the *Shamrock* and wrote articles on Irish athletics in this paper and the *United Ireland*, edited by William O'Brien, M.P.

Being of fine physique and possessing great strength, Cusack distinguished himself in the only games popular at the time. He was a great Rugby player. He is described as "of middle height, handsome features, dark eyes, black hair and beard . . . serious . . . his stride self-reliant, even combative, rarely without a large blackthorn stick."

A man of intensely Irish character . . . He was an enthusiastic worker in the '67 movement, a great writer and orator. In the years 1884 and 1885 he laboured for, and triumphed in, the establishment of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Hayes' Hotel, Thurles.



The First Central Council—taken at Thurles fifty years ago. Maurice Davin (President) centre front.

MAURICE DAVIN,

First President of the G.A.A.

Davin was proposed for the presidency by Cusack. The seconder was John Wyse Power. Maurice Davin was a great athlete, although he had retired from the arena in the year of the birth of the new association. He was born at Carrick-on-Suir in 1842. He had two brothers, Patrick and Thomas, of whom the first-named secured the World's Championship high and long jumps at Ballsbridge in 1886. Maurice's line lay in rowing, boxing and cricket.

JOHN WYSE POWER,

One of the three Secretaries.

A Gaelic enthusiast who helped to spread the new idea through the medium of journalism. He was a Fenian leader and was a member of the Supreme Council of the I.R.B. A vigorous and well-informed writer, he was editor of the *Leinster Leader* until 1885. He afterwards used his journalistic powers to further the twin movements.

P. J. O'RYAN,

One of the three Secretaries.

Born at Callan, Co. Kilkenny. Was also an athlete, but studied law and was a practising solicitor in Kilkenny at the time of the founding. Afterwards he practised in Thurles. The enthusiastic reception accorded to the new organisation in that town was partly due to his efforts.

ST. GEORGE McCARTHY,

The only one of the seven who took no further part after the first historic meeting. Was a member of the R.I.C., and a fine athlete. He afterwards became a District-Inspector of the constabulary at Templemore.

J. K. BRACKEN,

An intensely patriotic Gael. Also of Templemore. A contractor by trade, he was keenly interested in the keeping of National Graves and was responsible for and aided in the erection of many of the '98 memorials. He became a friend of Cusack's through these activities.

JOHN McKAY,

One of the three Secretaries.

A Corkman. Like Power, he was a journalist—a reporter for the *Cork Examiner*. He was the "publicity agent" for the movement in Munster, where it seemed to gain most ground at its beginning. He continued his work for the G.A.A. when he followed his profession of journalism in Dublin, Belfast and London.

"CHARTER OF THE G.A.A."

THE following is an extract from the famous letter sent by His Grace the Most Rev. T. W. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, to Michael Cusack. This document has become known as the "Charter of the G.A.A."

ONE of the most painful reflections that, as an Irishman, I am compelled to make in connection with the present aspect of things in this country, is derived from the ugly and irritating fact, that we are daily importing from England, not only her manufactured goods, which we cannot help doing, since she has practically strangled our own manufactured appliances, but, together with her fashions, her accents, her vicious literature, her music, her dances, and her manifold mannerisms, her games also and her pastimes, to the utter discredit of our own grand national sports, and to the sore humiliation, I believe, of every genuine son and daughter of the old land.

Ball-playing, hurling, football-kicking, according to Irish rules, "casting," leaping in various ways, wrestling, handy-grips, top-pegging, leap-frog, rounders, tip-in-the-hat and all such favourite exercises and amusements amongst men and boys, may now be said to be not only dead and buried, but in several localities to be entirely forgotten and unknown.

And what have we got in their stead? We have got such foreign and fantastic field sports as lawn tennis, polo, croquet, cricket, and the like—very excellent, I believe, and health-giving exercises in their way, still not racy of the soil, but rather alien, on the contrary, to it, as are indeed, for the most part, the men and women who first imported and still continue to patronise them.

Indeed if we continue travelling for the next score years in the same direction that we have been going in for some time past, contemning the sports that were practised by our forefathers, effacing our national features as though we were ashamed of them, and putting on, with England's stuffs and broadcloths, her masher habits and other effeminate follies as she may recommend, we had better, at once and publicly, abjure our nationality, clap hands for joy at sight of the Union Jack, and place "England's bloody red" exultantly above the green.

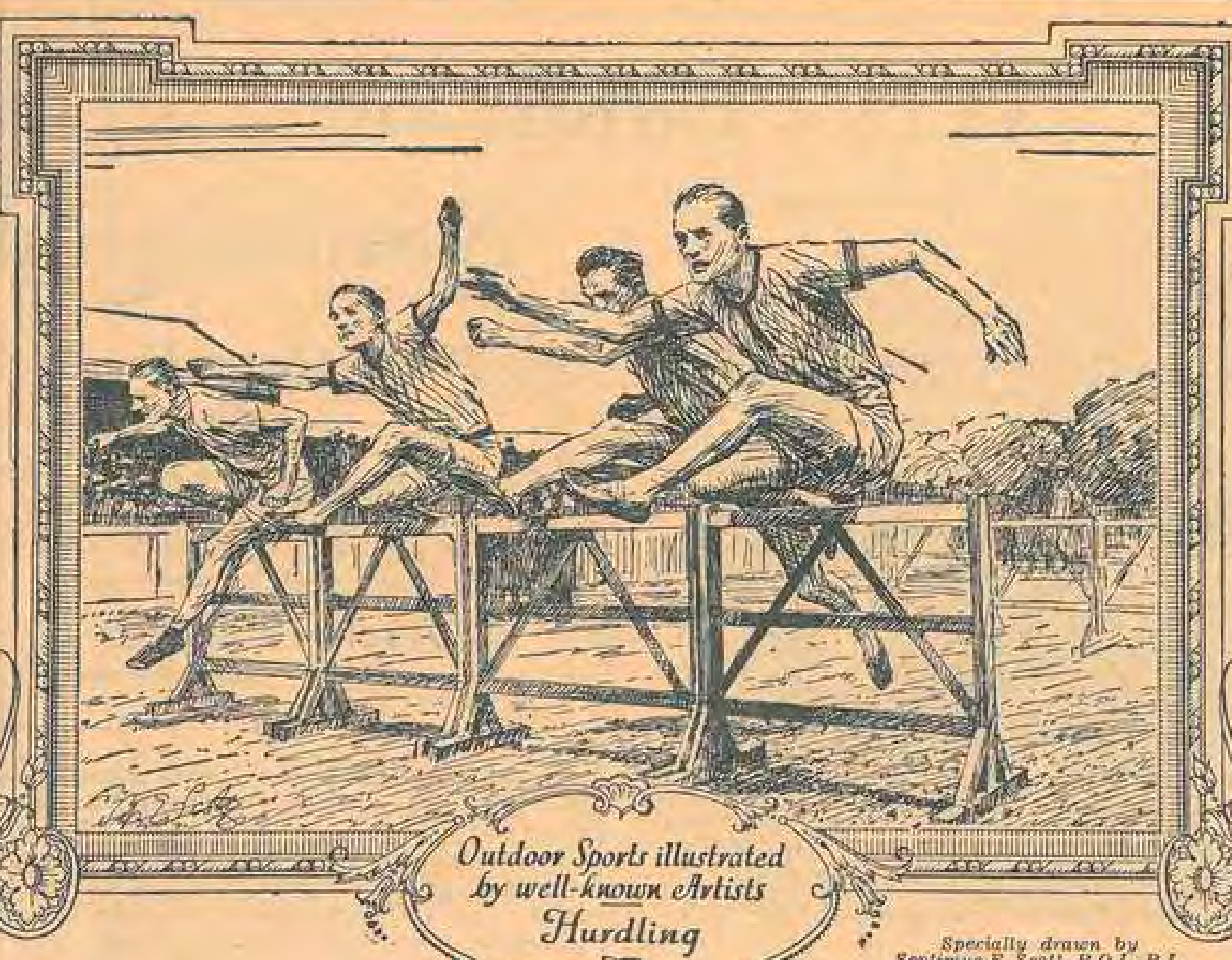
Deprecating, as I do, any such dire and disgraceful consummation, and seeing in your society of athletes, something altogether opposed to it, I shall be happy to do all for it that I can, and authorise you now, formally to place my name on the roll of your patrons.

In conclusion, I earnestly hope that our national journals will not disdain in future to give suitable notices of these Irish sports and pastimes which your society means to patronise and promote, and that the masters and pupils of our Irish colleges will not henceforth exclude from their athletic programme such manly exercises as I have just referred to and commemorated.

I remain, my dear sir, your very faithful servant,

✠ T. W. CROKE,
Archbishop of Cashel.

To Mr. Michael Cusack,
Hon. Secretary, Gaelic Athletic Association.



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MESSAGE from the G. A. A. PRESIDENT

Beannuiġim ḋíḃ, a Ġaeḋeala, annso i nÉirinn nó ṫar lear i gcéin ; agus ar ṫeaċt na bliana iubaile seo guiḋim orraiḃ, fé stiúrú Dé, gaċ raṫ agus sonas le h-agaiḋ na laeṫeannta roṁainn.

Go deimin, a ċáirde, tá sár-obair déanta ċeana féin ar son ársaċta agus saoirse na tíre, aċt tá orainn go léir an fód do seasaṁ, guala le gualainn, go dtí go mbeiḋ an ċaṫ buaiḋte go h-iomlán, i dtreo is go mbeiḋ Éire Gaeḋealaċ agus saor ón mBeann Mór go Carn Uí Néid.

Fellow Gaels, we are this year celebrating in happy unison, the Golden Jubilee Year of the G.A.A., which was founded just fifty years ago for the preservation and cultivation of our national sports and pastimes. Its roots are deeply embedded in the romantic past and its ideals embrace every phase of native culture, and enshrine the full spirit and enthusiastic virility of Irish Nationality.

Taking inspiration from the environs of the famous palace of Eamhain Macha, from the wide plains of Telltown, and the storied raths of Tara, along the undulating curragh 'neath the sentinel Hill of Allen, through the deep valleys of Desmond, and the countless glens of Connacht, the virile ghostly heroes of the past spring up to sound the glories of the long ago, and give fresh animation to the rising generations.

Seán Mac Cárthaigh.

Remembering the struggles and vicissitudes of the nation, suppressed, betrayed, famished, and outlawed, we behold once more in the great figures of Archbishop Croke, Michael Cusack, and Maurice Davin, the unchangeable spirit of the past reawakened and bequeathed anew to a war-worn and slumbering people; and to-day, after the efforts and trials of half-a-century, we see the splendid fruits of their timely endeavours in the enthusiastic multitudes of the playing fields, and in the widespread organisation united by the ancient traditions and undying hopes and aspirations of a resurgent nation.

With heartiest good wishes for the future of the Gaelic Athletic Association and all its friends, it is our ardent wish to live true in our day to the great heritage and trust reposing on us for the continued welfare of our own games, and for the freedom, prosperity and happiness of every son and daughter of Ireland.

Le gach Fior-ghuidhe dhibh go léir, a ghaedheala.

Sean Mac Carthaigh.

THE CIRCULAR

4 Gardiner's Place, Dublin.
October 27, 1884.

Dear Sir,

You are earnestly requested to attend a meeting which will be held at Thurles on the 1st November to take steps for the formation of a Gaelic Association for the preservation and cultivation of our National Pastimes and for providing rational amusements for the Irish people during their leisure hours. The movement which it is proposed to inaugurate has been approved of by Mr. Michael Davitt, Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P.; Mr. William O'Brien, M.P.; Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., and other eminent men who are interested in the social elevation of the race. The place of meeting will be determined on at the Commercial Hotel, Thurles, at 2 o'clock on the day of the meeting.

MAURICE DAVIN, Carrick-on-Suir.
MICHAEL CUSACK, Dublin, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*

Sport—It is the Very Bond of Nationhood!

Three Great Forces have moulded the National Mind

Says

Aodh de Blacam

Croke Park—Before Kerry-Kildare Final, 1926.

FEW would deny to Daniel Corkery the title of the best living Irish critic—the writer whose works are richest in thought on national themes. What has this fine scholar, this essayist of the first rank, to say about the Gaelic Athletic Association? Why, he describes one of its great contests as the very type of our national life, an event which might be taken as a test of a man's nationality, according as he shared in its spirit or was aloof from it.

Let us read Dr. Corkery's own words on this matter: —

> *I recall* (he writes) *being in Thurles at a hurling match for the Championship of Ireland. There were* 30,000 *onlookers. They were as typical of this nation as any of the great crowds that assemble of Saturday afternoons in England to witness Association football matches are typical of the English nation.*
>
> *It was while I looked around on that great crowd that I first became acutely conscious that as a nation we were without self-expression in literary form. The life of this people I looked upon—there were all sorts of individuals present, from bishops to tramps off the road—was not being explored in a natural way by any except one or two writers of any standing.*

Daniel Corkery goes on to observe that you hardly could imagine many of our leading writers at that match, or writing about it. Yet you could imagine the leading English writers writing about English matches—the crowds at English matches are 100 *per cent.* English, and the writers of England like to make the same claim for themselves.

Three Notes of the Nation.

What are the great and stirring events of common Irish life, the events that mould the growing mind and colour the very soul? They are: "the fair, the hurling match, the land-grabbing, the priesting, the mission, the Mass," yet (as Dr. Corkery says) you do not find these great things made the topic of writers, who yet would be angered if you denied them the name of national.

This is not as it ought to be. If we are to have a proud, self-confident, dignified nation, pride must be fostered by our writers and painters and others; these must take the things which most truly represent national life and must make them their themes. A writer who makes poems about things that interest nobody but himself is of no use to his people, and he never will be more than a minor poet, published in fancy editions and read only by cliques. All great writers take big themes, and their work strengthens the nation from which it comes.

Three great forces have moulded the Irish national mind. Those 30,000 people at Thurles, all stirred by the same delight and pride in Irish manhood, all conscious of a common spirit, were moulded by those three forces, the three notes of Irish nationhood.

What are those notes?

Reality and Ghosts.

Dr. Corkery describes them thus: (1) The Religious Consciousness of the People; (2) Irish Nationalism, and (3) The Land. There at the big Thurles match he let his mind, filled with this thought, rest on the vast throng, scanning the faces of a race created by those three forces. To turn then in thought to the books and plays that are written about Ireland was "to turn from solid reality to a pale ghost."

Here were people whose spirituality evangelised Europe, and now is evangelising new continents, whose life is saturated with the supernatural, whose griefs and joys are bound up with moral principles that almost all Europe beside has abandoned. Here were people whose personal fortunes all were rooted in the cause of a nation overthrown three centuries ago and striving ever since, with blood and tears, to recover its freedom; people to whom the ballads of the Irish struggle were familiar from the cradle, setting standards of taste and conduct. Here were people the most of whom worked on the land or, at the least, were closely connected with the soil.

In all three particulars, they differed radically from neighbouring nations, and they could not be understood except by those who shared, or at any rate understood, those three powerful forces: religion, the thirst for freedom, love of the earth.

Testimony of the Poets.

Certainly, it would be hard to find any secular occasion better fitted than a Gaelic match at which to see the race in its typical humour. It is there that you would see the finest manhood and share in the infectious pride of stock that rings in every cheer: "Up Tipp! Up Kerry! Up Monaghan!"—or, in the phrase that upset a stickler for plain language—"Up Down!"

Our rich national literature is largely a literature of sport. Cúchulain shortens his journey to Emhain Macha with hurley and ball, and overcomes a hundred opponents in the playing field; Fionn and the Fenians follow the beagles and Oisín in old age is heartbroken when he hears the baying of the chase. "Since I parted with Bran, I never heard the voice of a hound hunting on plain or bog or spreading slope, but my heart was grieved."

A hundred bardic poems in praise of the lords and princes told of the sport that was the chief diversion of the Gael. In the Penal days, hurling matches between baronies or parishes were commemorated in songs (like *Iomáin Léanaidh a' Bhá'dhúin*) that were to be sung for nigh two hundred years. Hunts and matches were described in uncounted country songs of the last age in Irish letters; and of what else did men talk more often at the forge and the chapel-gate?

This being so, and our literature and culture being those of a manly, an open-air stock, it follows that you cannot breed a cultivated Irish people if you neglect the playing field or the sports of the chase. You cannot throw aside the ways of life that made your fathers what they were and then expect to be as good men as your fathers.

Denationalised Boyhood.

When I look at playing fields in which Irish boys are playing foreign games, I am grieved with untellable bitterness. It is not that I despise foreign games. One of my close kinsmen was an Irish-Australian cricketer who made history in international games; like him, I have known the pleasure of a tingling willow in the hand. I grant that Cricket is a good, a very good game, and Rugby may be, but it does not look it; but neither of these games has for us the supreme beauty of raciness. Neither has our history behind it, or lifts the mind while it pleases the body. Both games carry with them alien and hostile associations.

At Gaelic Thurles, all the air was a thrill with pride of breed, the voice of the throng was Irish, the manners had the Irish cordiality and grace. At Rugby internationals, where are these qualities?

When boys are discouraged from the playing of Irish games, they are faced about, as it were, away from the poetry and history that the Gaelic playing field makes live again. They cannot even do their lessons aright afterwards! They are directed away from the Irish crowd, with its honest, racy mirth, its response to idealism, its manliness. They are directed towards ideals which are not those of our people.

Send boys to the Gaelic field, and you link them to the national culture; you will recognise in them speedily the modesty, helpfulness, quiet bearing, of the Gael. Send them to foreign games, and they will be warped in their very youth with an impious contempt for their forebears; they will become noisy, overbearing, and at last miserable with the feeling that they have lost touch with their own people. — I do not say that every case will be as bad as the worst; but that is what you are working for when you turn from national games, the bond of manliness everywhere.

"Give them a place to play.

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"I don't know how to express my thanks for the great benefit received from your wonderful treatment. I pray you may be made as great a blessing to many another poor sufferer as you have been to me."

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"Many thanks for your kind and good advice, which has done me a world of good. I have been troubled with Self-consciousness more or less for 30 years. Would that I had seen your advertisement years ago!"

HAVE SLEPT EVERY NIGHT

"I am pleased to say I am getting on splendidly. I did not know what it was to have a good night's sleep before I had your treatment. I have slept every single night, and my nerves are much better. Many thanks for your kindness."

Do not put off writing and then say, as hundreds of others have said, "I wish I had answered your advertisement long ago!" Write TO-DAY for this 28-page booklet which describes the most successful method of curing nervous disorders ever devised.

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THINKING IT OUT

The Fight to Establish the G. A. A.

At Athy, 1908. All-Ireland Replay, Dublin v. Tipperary. Tipperary won (seventeen aside). Famous "Hawk" O'Brien in goal. Note old-style posts.

IT would require the space of a good-sized volume to do adequate justice to the great part played by Ireland's capital in the birth, upbringing and development of the Gaelic Athletic Association, which had its first inspiration and inception close by Anna Liffey. Dublin, too, gave the Association its first active athletic foundation in the hurlers that mustered around Michael Cusack and his friends in the Phœnix Park, and who were first regarded by onlooking crowds as an extraordinary curiosity. But Michael Cusack and his friends were not engaged in any mere ephemeral phase of pastime for the filling up of leisure hours. The game of hurling provided pastime *par excellence*, but there was a great deal more than that in it, for every time the little group wielded their camans in the Park they were effectively relinking connection with Ireland's past and restoring one of the greatest heritages of native civilisation.

These hurling matches went on almost every Saturday evening and Sunday morning from 1881 with increasing success,

and from them sprang the Dublin Metropolitan Hurling Club, which was the first club to affiliate on the formation of the Association.

The music of the clashing ash camans had not been heard in the Phœnix Park for a long while previous to the hurling of what was contemptuously called "Cusack's parcel of boys."

In more ancient times the place saw many great hurling and football games, and later on, too, inter-county hurling contests between Dublin and Meath, and Dublin and Kildare, and Wicklow and other counties were arranged for there by the gentry of the respective counties, who picked the men in their districts. The last of these matches were played there nearly a century before these pioneers of the G.A.A. successfully resurrected the greatest game of the Gaels.

The First Step.

In the year 1879 on a Sunday morning in spring Cusack discussed the project of founding a national athletic association with the then prominent Co. Mayo athlete and all-round sportsman, P. W. Nally, of Balla, who was before and above all an uncompromising patriot. Nally was enthusiastic in his encouragement and felt that the time was ripe for such a move and felt that the strong Nationalist feeling manifesting itself all over the country would be a most auspicious atmosphere for the success of such an event. No man knew better than Nally how effectively Ireland's native games and forms of athletic competitions were being completely wiped out by existing conditions under which English athletics were imposed upon the country by non-Gaelic Irishmen.

Tom Semple (Thurles) and the late Dan Fraher (Dungarvan).

Unfortunately, Nally's patriotism soon made him a "marked man" by the satraps of British rule in Ireland, and on false evidence he was convicted and literally sentenced to death, for he died just before his term of ten years' imprisonment was completed in November, 1891.

In after years Cusack used to say that his interchange of views with Nally on that occasion took place close to the spot where Davis, Duffy and Dillon discussed and projected *The Nation* newspaper thirty-nine years before. Surely *The Nation* brought a new soul into Eire, and it is just as certain that the Gaelic Athletic Association brought a new hope and a new era into the country.

The Fenian Men.

Thomas Brennan was another early supporter and encourager of the good work, but Brennan soon got immersed in the "fighting policy" of the Land League, of which he became secretary and organiser, and had little time for anything else.

He, however, got several paragraphs into *The Irishman* newspaper, which was then the organ of the uncompromising Nationalists. James O'Connor, another prominent Fenian (afterwards M.P.), was also attached to this newspaper and afterwards to *United Ireland*.

By

Old Crock

O'Connor is one of the forgotten pioneers and he was writer of the most famous of all the articles written in support of the starting of the Association. P. N. Fitzgerald, of Cork, who was known all over Ireland as a commercial traveller, and who was very frequently in Dublin, is another whose work in the pioneering days is now almost forgotten. Many of the men in Dublin who planned the G.A.A. into shape before it was launched are long since out of the public mind.

These men, in most cases, were not athletes or prominently identified with the then athletic concerns of Dublin,

but they were men of national thought and outlook, who felt that a real practical effort should be made to emancipate the athletic life of the country from the British and West British grip that ruled it on the lines of an anti-Irish and anti-democratic system.

Breaking the Connection.

Maurice Davin and his brothers, Pat, Tom and Denis, were then prominent in Irish athletics and other forms of sport, from rowing to weight-throwing. The first-named two were men of world fame and knew all that could be known about athletics. Cusack was also an athlete and had distinguished himself in "putting the shot" competitions and had been in close association with the Irish Champions Athletic Club and the Dublin Athletic Club in hope of reforming them more to native ideas, but his efforts were hopeless. Such men as the Davins and Cusack, with an accepted status in athletics and an Irish outlook, were very properly regarded as the men to lead for a distinctly Irish and democratic association that would revive native forms of athletics and team games, and be really representative of Irish athletics.

Dublin was ready for the move, and so were counties like Cork, Tipperary, Wexford, Clare, Laoighis, Galway, etc., where such sports and pastimes were not entirely forgotten.

Little preliminary conferences were held at the houses of some of the well-wishers of the project. One of the first was held at the harness manufactory of Mr. Thomas Smith, Marlborough Street. Mr. Smith was a man very interested in everything Irish and a great friend of Cusack, and

it was he who made the hurling balls used by the "parcel of boys" in the Phœnix Park.

The same projectors of the G.A.A. also met at a house in Blackrock, and in a room at the office of the old Fenian newspaper. *United Ireland*.

Dublin was not considered suitable for the launching of the Association as there was a well-founded bias in the provinces against athletic bodies founded in Dublin, especially when the proposed Association wanted to draw all its strength from the country districts.

Mallow was favoured by some as a very convenient centre for a successful organising meeting. Maurice Davin and others felt that Thurles, the centre of a great hurling county and close to Kilkenny and the Leinster counties, and Cork, Clare, Limerick and Waterford held out the better prospects. So Thurles was agreed to, and subsequent events proved the wisdom of the decision.

Considering the number of circulars sent to assumed supporters and sympathisers some weeks before, as well as many personal letters from Cusack and Davin, and from the men who were not in personal touch with athletes, but who communicated with other friends, the number that turned up for the starting of the new organisation in the Billiard-room of Hayes's Hotel, Thurles, was very disappointing, and out of the seven that turned up there were only six who really had any keen interest in the project.

Mr. St. George McCarthy, who came with Mr. J. K. Bracken from Templemore, was a very young athlete at the time and had no interest in any other aspect of the little meeting.

He took very little part in the proceedings and took no further interest in the Association and subsequently became a District Inspector in the old Royal Irish Constabulary.

In fact it is quite possible that Mr. McCarthy learned sometime on that day, or later, that the meeting held at Hayes's Hotel was kept under notice that day by a special member of the Detective or "G" division of the Dublin Metropolitan Police force, and who had the assistance of a local "plain clothes" policeman to post him as to the identity of any local men who came to the meeting or who held converse with the visitors.

To say the least of it, the little group was "suspect," as everything in Ireland always was, to the guilty conscience of the British Government.

The Undaunted Seven.

Though disappointing as the meeting was in point of numbers and in the few letters of apology received from a few who could not attend,

the gathering was cheerful and relished Cusack's flying shafts of barbed sarcasm at the expense of a few who promised "to be there without fail."

Maurice Davin, who knew the feeling of the country on the question of restoring native games and pastimes better than any other man in the room, had never an instant's doubt as to the willingness of the people to come forward "in mass support" as the Association was launched.

Cusack attached great importance to the letter which he had from Michael Davitt and the assurances of support he had got from him some time previously in a personal interview.

"NOTHING LESS THAN A MIRACLE"

Cardinal MacRory's Belief in the G.A.A.

ARA COELI,
ARMAGH,
March 6th, 1934.

To the Editor of THE IRISH PRESS.
Dear Mr. Editor,

I am very glad to know that you intend to publish a Souvenir Number in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association; and I am sorry that I have no time to give you more than a few lines.

It is to be hoped that the Jubilee celebration will be a great and unqualified success, for seldom is success so well deserved. The Gaelic Athletic Association and its kindred organisations have done a great work for Ireland's soul. Long ago, when I was growing up in Tyrone, Tyrone of the O'Neills, the real spirit of Irish Nationalism was all but dead even on the hillsides; while in the planted plains and valleys it had long been supplanted by a spirit that was alien. Conditions in this respect may not have been quite so bad in other parts; but all over the country the Famine and the collapse of the Young Ireland movement had so dazed the nation and crushed its spirit that for several decades afterwards there was no recovery. Whatever spirit remained, was manifested in connection with politics and the Land Question.

His Eminence Cardinal MacRory, Patron of the G.A.A.

Gloom and apathy hung like a heavy cloud, especially over the rural areas, and the national games, language, music and dances were fast disappearing where they had not already disappeared. Only the dry bones of Irish Nationalism remained.

It was in these gloomy and dispiriting circumstances that brave Michael Cusack and the illustrious Archbishop Croke launched, fifty years ago, the Gaelic Athletic Association. Just as in the famous Vision of Bones in the Book of Ezechiel the Prophet cried out: "Come, Spirit, from the four winds and blow upon these slain and let them live again," so the immortal founders of the G.A.A. invoked the national spirit from the four winds of Ireland, and once more the result has been nothing less than a resurrection. The dry bones have been clothed with flesh and quickened again with a vigorous, pulsating life.

This is the miracle, nothing less than a resurrection, that will be commemorated on Easter Sunday in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association. It will be a celebration that will redound to the honour not only of the G.A.A., but of the Gaelic League and all the kindred Associations. May the celebration be worthy of the occasion.

The Gaelic Movement has still a good deal of work before it; but what it has already achieved is abundant guarantee for the future. I hope it will never lend countenance to anything that might impair the modesty of our youth. It is fine to have our ancient games and dances; but it is finer still for God and for Ireland to have fresh and unimpaired the traditional modesty of the Irish maiden. I believe that those at the head of the Movement will always come to realise this, and hence I hope that a movement that has done so much to brighten life and make the past live again will continue to go on from success to success.

I remain, dear Mr. Editor,
Yours faithfully,
✠ JOSEPH CARDINAL MACRORY.

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“Náisiúntaċt na h-Éireann a ḃí 'na gcroiḋe”

Tá míle com-gáirdeaċas dá ndéanam againn le Cumann na gClear-Lúiṫ ar slánú a gcaogad bliadan dóiḃ. Nuair cuireaḋ an Cumann ar bun ó ṫús, do ḃí cuid de na hÉireannaċaiḃ agus de na Gaeḋealaiḃ do b'fearr do ḃí ins an oileán ag cuidiú leó. Do ḃí mé féin an-ṁór le beirt aca, le Míceál Ciosóg agus le Seán Ó Laiġaire. Ḃí mé mór le deirḃriúr Seáin mar an gcéadna, do ḃí luaiḋte i saoilim le hÉduard Ó Duḃṫaiġ, do fuair bás i bpriosún, agus d'iarr sise go géar orm aṁrán do sgríoḃaḋ do ḃeaḋ oireaṁnaċ do'n Cumann agus do Ġaeḋealaiḃ óga. Rinne mé sin dí i mBéarla, óir ní raiḃ aon Ġaeḋilg aice féin ná ag Seán, aṁrán darab tosaċ

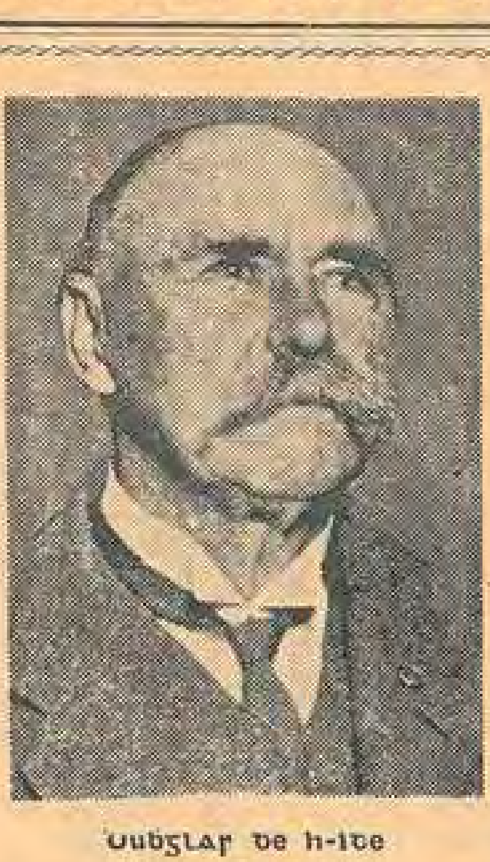
We the numerous men of Eirin
Born beneath her pleasant skies . .

Níor ḃ'fada 'na ḋiaiḋ sin gur iarraiḋ orm Gaeḋilg do ċur air. Saoilim go mbaḋ é an Ciosógaċ d'iarr sin orm, **óir ní ċuala mé riaṁ cainteóir a raiḃ an Ġaeḋilg ar a ṫoil féin aige, ná cainteóir níos líoṁṫa níos blasta 'ná an Ciosógaċ.** Do ḃí a ċroiḋe ins an nGaeḋilg, rud naċ raiḃ ag Seán. Aċt do ṫuig an ḃeirt aca go raiḃ Cumann na gClear-Lúiṫ ag déanam níos mó 'ná na sean-ċluiċí d'aiṫḃeoḋaḋ, go raiḃ sé ag obair ċun náisiúntaċt na hÉireann do ṡaoraḋ ó ḃás. Baḋ é sin do ṫarraing Seán Ó Laoġaire isteaċ san obair; aċt ní mar sin ar fad do'n Ċiosógaċ, óir baḋ é féin an buaċaill ar páirc an imirṫe, agus é teiṫ téagaraċ, leigte láidir. **Aċt baḋ é Náisiúntaċt na hÉireann do ḃí in a ċroiḋe-sean ċoṁ maiṫ agus do ḃí sé i gcroiḋe Ṡeáin Uí Laoġaire.**

Ar cuma ar biṫ, do ċuir mise Gaeḋilg ar m'aṁrán mí na Feabra, 1888, agus seo é.

Féaċ sinn-ne, clann na hÉireann
Rugaḋ san oileáinín seo,
Sinn 'nár 'seasaṁ ar ár sléiḃtiḃ
Mar ba ġnáṫaċ linn fad-ó.
Féaċ na h-airm ar ár nguallainn!
Ní'l ain gunnaí in áit láiṁ,
M'anam! d'feicfiḋe iad go luaṫ linn
Dá mbeaḋ Éire in a ngáḋ!
(Cur-fá).
Táimid láidir, dílis d'Éirinn,
'Dul ag cruinniú ar an sliaḃ,
Gan aon eagla, gan aon faitċeas
Gan aon sgannrú aċt roiṁ Dia.
Tá an Sacsanaċ ró-fallsa,
Snáṁuiḋe boċt gan sgreaċaḋ é!
Táimid uasal uaiḃreaċ láidir.
Ní mar iad tá sinn-ne, a Dé.

Adeir
An Craoiḃín
Pátrún ar
Ċumann na Lúiṫ-Ċleas



Dubglas de h-Íde
“An Craoiḃín”

Táimid bródaṁail as ár sléiḃtiḃ,
Táimid bródaṁail asainn féin,
Clann na hÉireann, Sliocṫ Míléisiúis,
Muinntir gaisgiḋeaċ uaiḃreaċ tréan.
(Cur-fá.)
D'fág ár n-aiṫreaċa 'na ndiaiḋ
Cogaḋ fada—'s mór a gclú—
Tá an conspóid sin gan críoċnú,
Táimid féin ag troid indiú.
Ṫugamar ár móid 's ár mionna!
Leanfamuid don ċogaḋ so,
Riobárd Emmet, Pádraig Sáirséal,
'S iad leanfamuid go deó.
(Cur-fá.)

Tá faitċeas orm go bfuil an iomarcuid plámáis insan aṁrán so. Agus ní raiḃ an Sacsanaċ 'na snáṁuiḋe ar fad nuair bris an Cogaḋ Mór amaċ! Aċt do rinneaḋ an píosa beag sin 46 bliadanta ó soin, agus do ḃí árd-ṁeanmain agus cosáirsce go mór de ḋíṫ orrainn an uair sin. Go maiṫċeas dam anois é mar sin!

Rinne mé aṁrán eile mar ḋán-ṁáirséala, ar impiḋe Ṡeoirse Uí Coḃṫaiġ, an t-ársadóir is mó clú do ḃí againn i nÉirinn le na linn. Dubairt seisean naċ féidir fonn-máirséala níos fearr d'fágail na an t-aṁrán do sgríoḃ Tomás Daibis “Oh, she's a rich and rare land,” agus d'iarr sé orm Gaeḋilg do ċur air, rud do rinneas. Seo é é. Do múineaḋ é do na sgoláiriḃ-sgoile, saoilim, agus do gabadar i mB'lá' Cliaṫ é, uair nó dó.

Is ceólmar, áluinn, ársa,
Is seód i lár na sáile,
Is beóḋa, bláṫmar, breáġ í
An tír 'n ar tógaḋ mé.

Tá fir galánta láidre
Le fágail ins gaċ aon áit dí,
D'fulóngaḋaois an bás dí,
A's O! buḋ beag leó é.

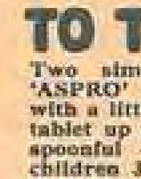
Óir ní'l sí críon ná cráiḋte,
Ní tír gan croiḋe gan c'páirte
Ní tír gan brig gan cáil í
An tír 'n ar tógaḋ mé.

Tá an ceart ann sin ar gárda,
Tá an Óige ann sin, 's an Áille,
Nár ṫige uirri náṁad,
Má ṫig—nár fille sé!

O! is ceólmar áluinn ársa,
Is seód i lár na sáile,
Is beóḋa bláṫmar breáġ í,
An tír 'n ar tógaḋ mé.

Ḃí mise i gcóṁnuiḋe ceangailte go dlúṫ le cúis na Gaeḋilge, agus is mar onóir do'n Ġaeḋilg do rinne an Cumann pátrún díom-sa. Aċt tá gliondar ar mo ċroiḋe indiú nuair feicim an Connraḋ agus an Cumann ag obair go dlúṫ ar láiṁ a ċéile.

Agus tá áṫas orm go bfuil sé ar mo ċumas an focal comġáirdeaċais seo a ráḋ. Go maire Cumann na gClear-Lúiṫ go deó i nÉirinn!



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The change of seasons means petty illnesses for numbers of people. Many complain of nervy complaints during this period. Sleeplessness and irritability are other troublesome conditions. Headaches are much in evidence and ills and chills are prevalent. Take 'ASPRO' and you can banish these troublesome conditions quickly and effectively. Irritability is soothed away and refreshing sleep takes the place of sleeplessness. You awake refreshed and vigorous. Your headaches, too, can be banished definitely in a few minutes by the 'ASPRO' method. Your nerves are calmed and a feeling of ease and comfort experienced. Remember, 'ASPRO' does not dope, deaden or drug. It is so safe a child can take it. There are no harmful after-effects because 'ASPRO' is completely eliminated from the system a few hours after you have taken it. Do not confuse 'ASPRO' with cheap and impure aspirin. Remember, 'ASPRO' harms neither the heart nor the stomach. It represents quick service—purity—safety—healing power in tablet form.

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IRISH FREE STATE

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INFLUENZA
HEADACHES
SLEEPLESSNESS OR INSOMNIA
NEURALGIA
SCIATICA
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NERVE SHOCK
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RHEUMATISM
ALCOHOLIC AFTER EFFECTS
PAINS PECULIAR TO WOMEN
MALARIA
ASTHMA

Read these Convincing Letters

PROOF FROM DUBLIN

Dear Sirs, 26 Walsh Road, Dublin.
Although I had found 'ASPRO' to be all that is claimed for it I still had doubts as to its effect on children.
Recently, however, my daughter aged 10 years had a severe attack of earache following 'flu and could not sleep owing to the pain. One 'ASPRO' in water was given her and in an hour she was asleep and further the next morning the pain was gone.
I am writing this in grateful thanks for the relief gained from your wonderful remedy. Yours truly,
WILLIAM McCORMACK.

IMMEDIATE PAIN-RELIEF

267 Northumberland Avenue,
Dear Sirs, Reading.
Just a few words of praise for 'ASPRO'. I had some teeth extracted and for three days I had untold agony through aching gums and someone suggested 'ASPRO' and the first two tablets gave instant relief.
I am, Yours truly,
V. WITHERS.

'ASPRO' AS A GARGLE

Two 'ASPRO' Tablets in four tablespoonfuls of water make an excellent gargle for sore throat, tonsilitis, and act as a deterrent.

'FLU, COLDS AND HEADACHES BANISHED

Loddiges Road, Mare Street,
Gentlemen, Hackney, E.9.
It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this letter to prove the genuine effect of your 'ASPRO' tablets. I sometimes have a headache which is unbearable, but a little while after I have taken two 'ASPRO' tablets it has gone. When I have felt a "'flu" cold coming over me, I have gone to bed, drunk some hot lemon water with 2 'ASPRO' tablets and the next morning I am as "fit as a fiddle." I am,
Yours gratefully, B.C.R.

HOW TO GIVE 'ASPRO' TO THE KIDDIES

Two simple methods of giving 'ASPRO' to the kiddies are: (a) with a little milk; or (b) break the tablet up and administer in a teaspoonful of jam. The dose is: children 3 to 6 years, ½ tablet; 6 to 14 years, 1 tablet; 14 to 18 years, 1½ tablets. 'ASPRO' like any other medicine, should not be given to babies under 3 years of age without medical advice.

EXTRA TABLETS FREE!
The cheapest way to buy 'ASPRO' is the 2/6 packet. It contains ten extra tablets, equivalent to 3/- worth of 'ASPRO'. The next cheapest way is the 1/3 packet, which contains two extra tablets.

PRICES WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL 3D 6D 1/3 2/6
ALL LEADING CHEMISTS AND STORES STOCK AND DISPLAY 'ASPRO'

'ASPRO' REG. TRADE MARK

STRONG, STURDY MEN OF THE RACE

The G.A.A., which is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its foundation, has done magnificent work in building up the athletic qualities of our young manhood—and it is still doing it very successfully.

BRAIN AND BRAWN AND MUSCLE are developed in a Healthy Body.

HEALTH AND STRENGTH AND STAMINA are built up on Good Food.

The Best Body Building Food is Bread, and the BEST BREAD is BOLANDS.

Let Bolands give you Health, Strength and The Joy of Living.

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Ideal
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*Your Brown Bread is "**Ideal**" of course*

"Ideal," the best Brown Bread, is 100 per cent. product of Irish Wheat and is made only by Bolands from their OWN recipe.

Say 'Ideal' and take no other

Lynch.

A GOLDEN JUBILEE

To achieve a Golden Jubilee means that an organisation must possess excellence in aim and strength of character in its members. These things have made the G.A.A. the nation-wide movement that has infused such vigour into the national life of Ireland.

A GOLDEN REPUTATION

For 110 years Carroll's have been famous for the quality of their tobaccos, and they have built up a golden reputation that is nation-wide. To-day Sweet Afton Cigarettes have reached the pinnacle of public favour.

"Sweet Afton"
Virginia
Cigarettes
Flow gently, Sweet Afton among thy green braes,
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise
P.J. Carroll & Co Ltd
"Sweet Afton" 20

The best that money can buy

How Half-Century's Finals Were Won

FOOTBALL

FINAL	VENUE & DATE	TEAMS	SCORES
1887	Clonskeagh, April 29, 1888.	**LIMERICK** (Commercials) **Louth** (Young Irelands)	1 gl., 4 pts. 3 pts.
1888	**Unfinished.**	——	——
1889	Inchicore, Oct. 20, 1889.	**TIPPERARY** (Bohercrowe) **Leix** (Maryboro')	3 gls., 6 pts. Nil.
1890	Clonturk, June 26, 1892.	**CORK** (Midleton) **Wexford** (Blues & Whites)	2 gls., 4 pts. 1 pt.
1891	Clonturk, Feb. 28, 1892.	**DUBLIN** (Young Irelands) **Cork** (Clondrohid)	2 gls., 1 pt. 1 gl., 9 pts.
	(1 goal outweighed any number of points to this final.)		
1892	Clonturk, March 26, 1893.	**DUBLIN** (Young Irelands) **Kerry** (Laune Rangers)	1 gl., 4 pts. 3 pts.
1893	Phoenix Park, June 24, 1894.	**WEXFORD** (Young Irelands) **Cork** (Dromtariffe)	1 gl., 1 pt. 1 pt. (Match unfinished)
1894	Thurles, April 21, 1895. (Draw, Clonturk, March 24).	**DUBLIN** (Young Irelands) **Cork** (Nils) (Award to Dublin). (Goal equal to 5 points to date.)	5 pts. 1 gl., 2 pts.
1895	Jones's Road, March 15, 1896.	**TIPPERARY** (Arravale Rovers) **Meath** (Pierce Mahonys)	4 pts. 3 pts.
1896	Jones's Road, Feb. 6, 1898.	**LIMERICK** (Commercials) **Dublin** (Young Irelands)	1 gl., 5 pts. 7 pts.
1897	Jones's Road, Feb. 5, 1899.	**DUBLIN** (Kickhams) **Cork** (Dunmanway)	2 gls., 6 pts. 2 pts.
1898	Tipperary, April 8, 1900.	**DUBLIN** (Geraldines) **Waterford** (Erin's Hope)	2 gls., 8 pts. 4 pts.
1899	Jones's Road, Feb. 10, 1901.	**DUBLIN** (Geraldines) **Cork** (Fermoy)	1 gl., 10 pts. 6 pts.
1900	Jones's Road, Oct. 26, 1902.	**TIPPERARY** (Clonmel Shamrocks) **London** (Hibernians)	3 gls., 7 pts. 2 pts.
1901	Jones's Road, Aug. 2, 1903.	**DUBLIN** (Isles of the Sea) **London** (Hibernians)	14 pts. 2 pts.
1902	Cork, Sept. 11, 1904.	**DUBLIN** (Bray Emmets) **London** (Hibernians)	2 gls., 8 pts. 4 pts.
1903	Jones's Road, Nov. 12, 1905.	**KERRY** (Tralee Mitchels) **London** (Hibernians) (Kerry having drawn twice with Kildare (Clane).	11 pts. 4 pts.
1904	Cork, July 1, 1906.	**KERRY** (Tralee Mitchels) **Dublin** (Kickhams)	5 pts. 2 pts.
1905	Thurles, June 16, 1907.	**KILDARE** (Rosebery) **Kerry** (Tralee Mitchels)	1 gl., 7 pts. 5 pts.
1906	Athy, Oct. 20, 1907.	**DUBLIN** (Kickhams) **Cork** (Fermoy)	5 pts. 4 pts.
1907	Tipperary, July 5, 1908.	**DUBLIN** (Kickhams) **Cork** (Lees)	6 pts. 2 pts.
1908	Jones's Road, Oct. 1, 1909.	**DUBLIN** (Geraldines) **London** (Hibernians)	1 gl., 10 pts. 4 pts.
1909	Jones's Road, Dec. 5, 1909.	**KERRY** (Tralee Mitchels) **Louth** (Tredagh)	1 gl., 9 pts. 6 pts.
1910	Croke Park, (Unplayed).	**LOUTH** (Tredaghs) **Kerry** (Tralee Mitchels)	Walk-over for Louth Kerry refuse to travel.
1911	Croke Park, Jan. 14, 1912.	**CORK** (Lees) **Antrim** (Shauns)	6 gls., 6 pts. 1 gl., 2 pts.
1912	Croke Park, Nov. 3, 1912.	**LOUTH** (Tredaghs) **Antrim** (Mitchels)	1 gl., 7 pts. 1 gl., 2 pts.
1913	Croke Park, Dec. 14, 1913.	**KERRY** (Killarney) **Wexford** (Rapparees).	2 gls., 2 pts. 3 pts.
1914	Croke Park, Nov. 29, 1914.	**KERRY** (Killarney) **Wexford** (Blues & Whites) (Replay after draw.)	2 gls., 3 pts. 6 pts.
1915	Croke Park, Nov. 7, 1915.	**WEXFORD** (Blues & Whites) **Kerry** (Selection)	2 gls., 4 pts. 2 gls., 1 pt.
1916	Croke Park, Dec. 17, 1916.	**WEXFORD** (Blues & Whites) **Mayo** (Stephenites).	3 gls., 4 pts. 1 gl., 2 pts.
1917	Croke Park, Dec. 9, 1917.	**WEXFORD** (Blues & Whites) **Clare** (Selection)	9 pts. 5 pts.
1918	Croke Park, Feb. 16, 1919.	**WEXFORD** (Blues & Whites) **Tipperary** (Fethard)	5 pts. 4 pts.
1919	Croke Park, Sept. 29, 1919.	**KILDARE** (Caragh) **Galway** (Selection)	2 gls., 5 pts. 1 pt.
1920	Croke Park, June 11, 1922.	**TIPPERARY** **Dublin** (O'Toole's)	1 gl., 6 pts. 1 gl., 2 pts.
1921	Croke Park, June 17, 1923.	**DUBLIN** (St. Mary's) **Mayo** (Stephenites)	1 gl., 9 pts. 2 pts.
1922	Croke Park, Oct. 7, 1923.	**DUBLIN** (O'Tooles) **Galway** (Ballinasloe)	6 pts. 4 pts.
1923	Croke Park, Sept. 28, 1924.	**DUBLIN** **Kerry**	1 gl., 5 pts. 1 gl., 2 pts.
1924	Croke Park, April 26, 1925.	**KERRY** **Dublin**	4 pts. 3 pts.
1925	No Final.	**GALWAY** declared champions	——
1926	Croke Park, Oct. 17, 1926.	**KERRY** **Kildare** (Replay after draw).	1 gl., 4 pts. 4 pts.
1927	Croke Park, Sept. 25, 1927.	**KILDARE** **Kerry**	5 pts. 3 pts.
1928	Croke Park, Sept. 30, 1928	**KILDARE** **Cavan**	2 gls., 6 pts. 2 gls., 5 pts.
1929	Croke Park, Sept. 22, 1929.	**KERRY** **Kildare**	1 gl., 8 pts. 1 gl., 5 pts.
1930	Croke Park, Sept. 28, 1930.	**KERRY** **Monaghan**	3 gls., 11 pts. 2 pts.
1931	Croke Park, Sept. 27, 1931.	**KERRY** **Kildare**	1 gl., 11 pts. 8 pts.
1932	Croke Park, Sept. 25, 1932	**KERRY** **Mayo**	2 gls., 7 pts. 2 gls., 4 pts.
1933	Croke Park, Sept. 24, 1933.	**CAVAN** **Galway**	2 gls., 5 pts. 1 gl., 4 pts.

HURLING

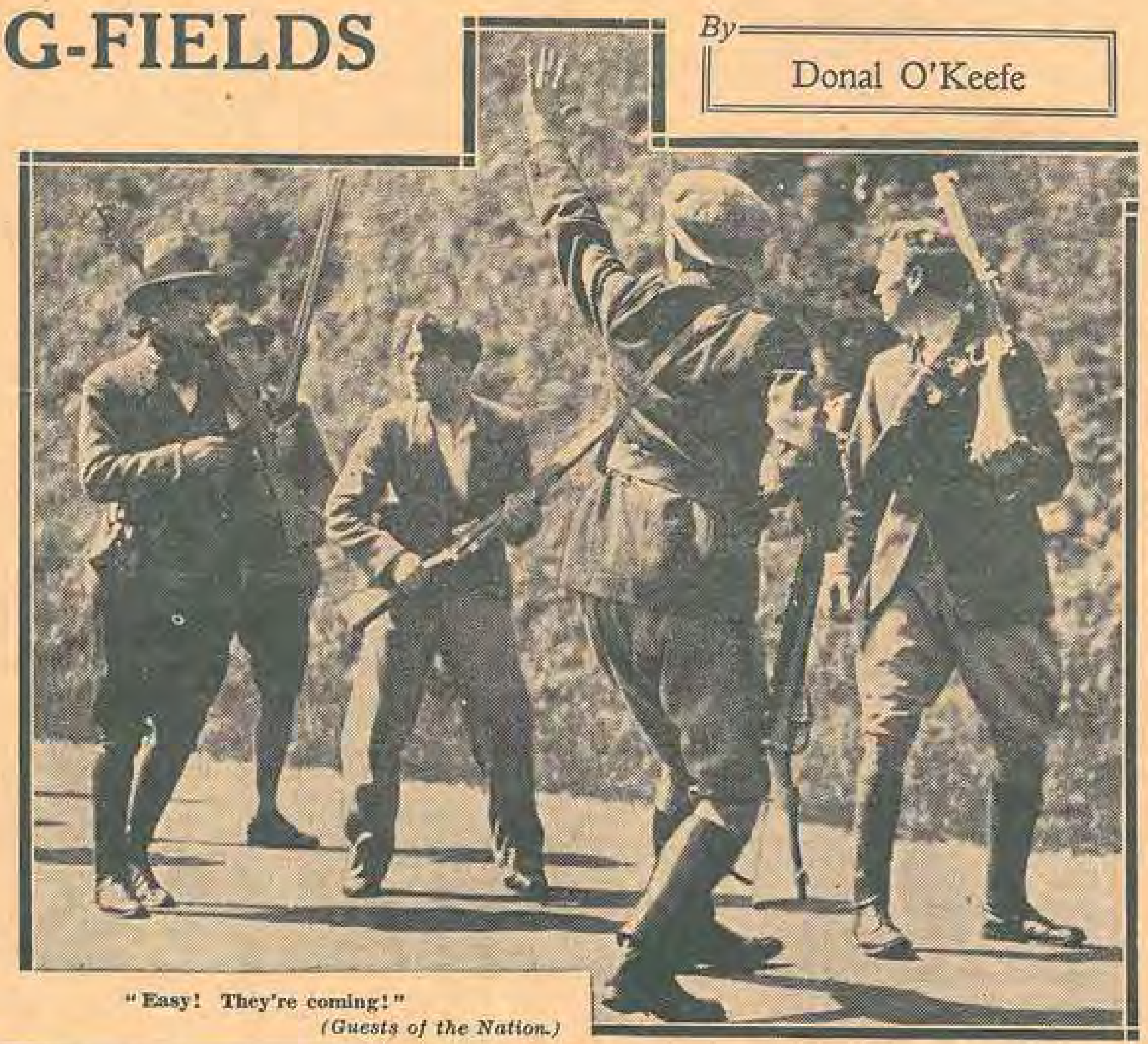
FINAL	VENUE & DATE	TEAMS	SCORES
1887	Birr, Apl. 1, '88 **(21 aside).**	**TIPPERARY** (Thurles) **Galway** (Meelick)	1 gl., 1 pt. (1 pt. forfeit). Nil.
1888	**Unfinished.**	——	——
1889	Inchicore, Nov. 3, 1889.	**DUBLIN** (Kickhams) **Clare** (Tulla)	5 gls., 1 pt. 1 gl., 6 pts.
1890	Clonturk, Nov. 16, 1890	**CORK** (Aghabullogue) **Wexford** (Castlebridge)	1 gl., 6 pts. 2 gls., 2 pts.
1891	Clonturk, Feb. 28, 1892	**KERRY** (Ballyduff) **Wexford** (Crossabeg)	2 gls., 3 pts. 1 gl., 5 pts.
1892	Clonturk, Mar. 26, 1893 **(17 aside.)**	**CORK** (Redmonds) **Dublin** (Fag-Davitts) (Dublin withdrew after 50 minutes).	2 gls., 4 pts. 1 gl., 1 pt.
1893	Phoenix Park, June 24, 1894.	**CORK** (Blackrock) **Kilkenny** (Confederation)	6 gls., 8 pts. 2 pts.
1894	Clonturk, March 24, 1895.	**CORK** (Blackrock) **Dublin** (Rapparees)	5 gls., 20 pts. 2 gls.
1895	Jones's Road, March 15, 1896.	**TIPPERARY** (Tubberadora) **Kilkenny** (Tullaroan)	6 gls., 8 pts. 1 gl.
1896	Jones's Road, March 27, 1898.	**TIPPERARY** (Tubberadora) **Dublin** (Commercials)	8 gls., 14 pts. 4 pts.
1897	Tipperary, Nov. 20, 1898.	**LIMERICK** (Kilfinane) **Kilkenny** (Tullaroan)	3 gls., 4 pts. 2 gls., 4 pts.
1898	Jones's Road, March 25, 1900.	**TIPPERARY** (Tubberadora) **Kilkenny** (Three Castles)	7 gls., 13 pts. 3 gls., 10 pts.
1899	Jones's Road, March 24, 1901.	**TIPPERARY** (Moycarkey) **Wexford** (Blackwater)	3 gls., 12 pts. 1 gl., 4 pts.
1900	Jones's Road, March 25, 1900.	**TIPPERARY** (Two-mile-Borris. **London** (Desmonds)	2 gls., 5 pts. 6 pts.
1901	Jones's Road, Aug. 2, 1903.	**LONDON** (Emmets) **Cork** (Redmonds)	1 gl., 5 pts. 4 pts.
1902	Cork, Sept. 11, 1904.	**CORK** (Dungourney) **London** (Brian Boru)	3 gls., 13 pts. Nil.
1903	Jones's Road, Nov. 12, 1905.	**CORK** (Blackrock) **London** (Hibernians)	3 gls., 16 pts. 1 gl., 1 pt.
1904	Carrick-on-Suir, June 24, 1906.	**KILKENNY** (Tullaroan) **Cork** (St. Finbar's)	1 gl., 9 pts. 1 gl., 8 pts.
1905 (Replay)	Dungarvan, June 30, 1907.	**KILKENNY** (Erin's Own) **Cork** (St. Finbar's)	7 gls., 7 pts. 2 gls., 9 pts.
		(Disputed match, Tipperary, Apl. 14)	
1906	Kilkenny, Oct. 27, 1907.	**TIPPERARY** (Thurles) **Dublin** (Faughs)	3 gls., 16 pts. 3 gls., 8 pts.
1907	Dungarvan, June 21, 1908.	**KILKENNY** (Tullaroan) **Cork** (Dungourney)	3 gls., 12 pts. 4 gls., 8 pts.
1908	Athy, June 27, 1909.	**TIPPERARY** (Thurles) **Dublin** (Kickhams)	3 gls., 15 pts. 1 gl., 5 pts. (Replay after draw)
1909	Cork, Dec. 12, 1909.	**KILKENNY** (Mooncoin) **Tipperary** (Thurles)	4 gls., 6 pts. 12 pts.
1910	Jones's Road, Nov. 20, 1910.	**WEXFORD** (Castlebridge) **Limerick** (Castleconnel)	7 gls. 6 gls., 2 pts.
1911	Thurles, (Not played).	**KILKENNY** (Tullaroan) **Limerick** (Castleconnel)	Walk over. (Refuse to play at Thurles).
1912	Croke Park, Nov. 17, 1912.	**KILKENNY** (Tullaroan) **Cork** (Blackrock)	2 gls., 1 pt. 1 gl., 3 pts.
1913	Croke Park, Nov. 2 ,1913. **(Fifteen aside).**	**KILKENNY** (Mooncoin) **Tipperary** (Toomevara)	2 gls., 4 pts. 1 gl., 2 pts.
1914	Croke Park, Oct. 18, 1914.	**CLARE** (Quin) **Leix** (Kilcotton)	5 gls., 1 pt. 1 gl.
1915	Croke Park, Oct. 24, 1915.	**LEIX** (Ballygeehan) **Cork** (Redmonds)	6 gls., 2 pts. 4 gls., 1 pt.
1916	Croke Park, Jan. 21, 1917.	**TIPPERARY** (Boherlahan) **Kilkenny** (Tullaroan)	5 gls., 4 pts. 3 gls., 2 pts.
1917	Croke Park, Oct. 28, 1917.	**DUBLIN** (Collegians) **Tipperary** (Boherlahan)	5 gls., 4 pts. 4 gls., 2 pts.
1918	Croke Park, Jan 26, 1919.	**LIMERICK** (Newcastle West) **Wexford** (Selection)	9 gls., 5 pts. 1 gl., 3 pts.
1919	Croke Park, Sept. 21, 1919.	**CORK** (Selection) **Dublin** (Collegians)	6 gls., 4 pts. 2 gls., 4 pts.
1920	Croke Park, May 14, 1922.	**DUBLIN** (Faughs) **Cork** (Selection)	4 gls., 9 pts. 4 gls., 3 pts.
1921	Croke Park, March 4, 1923.	**LIMERICK** **Dublin** (Faughs)	8 gls., 4 pts. 3 gls., 2 pts.
1922	Croke Park, Sept. 9, 1923.	**KILKENNY** **Tipperary**	4 gls., 2 pts. 2 gls., 6 pts.
1923	Croke Park, Sept. 14, 1924.	**GALWAY** **Limerick**	7 gls., 3 pts. 4 gls., 5 pts.
1924	Croke Park, Dec. 14, 1924.	**DUBLIN** (Kickhams) **Galway**	5 gls., 3 pts. 2 gls., 6 pts.
1925	Croke Park, Sept. 6, 1925.	**TIPPERARY** **Galway**	5 gls., 6 pts. 1 gl., 5 pts.
1926	Croke Park, Oct. 24, 1926.	**CORK** **Kilkenny**	4 gls., 6 pts. 2 gls.
1927	Croke Park, Sept. 4, 1927.	**DUBLIN** **Cork**	4 gls., 8 pts. 1 gl., 3 pts.
1928	Croke Park, Sept. 9, 1928.	**CORK** **Galway**	6 gls., 12 pts. 1 gl.
1929	Croke Park, Sept. 1, 1929.	**CORK** **Galway**	4 gls., 9 pts. 1 gl., 3 pts.
1930	Croke Park, Sept. 7, 1930.	**TIPPERARY** **Dublin**	2 gls., 7 pts. 1 gl., 3 pts.
1931	Croke Park, Sept. 6, 1931.	Cork Kilkenny Cork Kilkenny **CORK** **Kilkenny**	1 gl., 6 pts. do. do. 2 gls., 5 pts. do. do. 5 gls., 8 pts. 3 gls., 4 pts.
1932	Croke Park, Sept. 4, 1932.	**KILKENNY** **Clare**	3 gls., 3 pts. 2 gls., 3 pts.
1933	Croke Park, Sept. 3, 1933.	**KILKENNY** **Limerick**	1 gl., 7 pts. 6 pts.

"THERE WAS NO SOUND IN THE LITTLE PARISHES—BUT PEALING OF RIFLES"

WHEN PLAYING-FIELDS WERE EMPTY

—and Fighting Lines were Filled

By—
Donal O'Keefe



"Easy! They're coming!"
(Guests of the Nation.)

THE G.A.A. was born in a room in a sturdy Munster town, on one historic day. But it was conceived in the minds of men who had been through a short-lived glorious battle, and borne by Ireland through days of defeat and subtle danger. The organisation of the games was a tonic for defeatism. The Fenians were gone. Anglicisation, insidious and poisonous, was creeping over the land. It was the sound of the tramping of athletes to the fields, the banging of the football on the cross-bar, the smack of the *camán* on the speeding *sliodar*, that drove that snake into its lair again.

And then Fenianism came again, into the sunlit air and the keen wind of the playing fields, breathed by clean-bodied athletes when the thrill of nationality was singing in their blood.

For the men who shouldered the hurleys in the early years of the twentieth century were shouldering rifles in the splendid Easter, and the backs and forwards of the years of peace-were the barricade men and snipers of the years of battle.

It need not seem strange that the great G.A.A. counties fought so well and suffered so terribly in the bloody years. By the fences, after football or hurling match, the men spoke of Ireland. Short, expectant, foreboding remarks can accompany the lifting off of jerseys, the changing of boots. There would be an idealist on the team. There would be Gaelic Leaguers. Even the mothers knew as they watched their sons half unconsciously "sloping" the hurleys as they would rifles . . . . .

England's Appeals.

War! Flaming through Europe. What fine boys these games had made in Ireland. They would look splendid on their way to England—and to France! "A special appeal to the hurlers and footballers of Munster." Insidious Albion! The eyes of that idealist in the team were like dark flames. How he must have laboured and journeyed and spoken. How he must have brought the newspapers into the fields with him and showed the rest the other cuttings, the appeals to the cricketer and Rugby men. And they won—such men as he . . . . There are clubs in Dublin and Kerry and Cork and Tipp. and Kilkenny; ay, in all the great counties, named after G.A.A. lads who died in 'Sixteen

Austin Stack.

Sinn Fein! The people knew, and smiled, when they saw the "organiser" with the local club secretaries as they bought their tickets—if there happened to be tickets—at the playing-field gates.

Well, the lads had enough camáns and leathers—and the "men going in" couldn't go in without money.

And the games were as good as ever. Better. A good cause gives a great spirit. The referees could tell that.

Conscription! The "appeals" had failed. There was no need of the idealist's fiery speeches now. The hurleys did make good "dummies." The people laughed at the "bad players" taking out their camáns too,

They stayed out late, those nights. And sometimes there would be no muddy ball-marks on the "sticks" when they came home.

There were some good players in the R.I.C. An R.I.C. man was one of the Thurles seven. There were good Irishmen in the R.I.C. When the English, wily enough, directed the force of D.O.R.A. against the hurleys, R.I.C. men threw off their coats. They seemed to know then where the hurlers met. And some of them were good at the drilling. The Black-and-Tans! England would have her revenge on the men who resisted her "appeals" and her force. Who wonders that the G.A.A. was an "illegal assembly." "They have made the whole Irish nation an 'illegal assembly,'" said Griffith.

The years that followed have been storied too sadly in many places to be storied here. And yet the G.A.A. can say that every final was played, sometime, somehow. For Irishmen could play games in hell, if they went there. Kerry and Louth renewed 1903 and 1913, in Frongoch! Prisoners in Ballykinlar sent a request to the Central Council for funds for football prizes, as airily as if they had all Ireland to rove through.

On Gaelic Sunday the internees of Belfast Jail held a great contest, Munster and Ulster versus Leinster and Connacht.

But in the dark days too, there was, for long stretches, no sound in the little parishes or the towns, but the pealing of rifles. Even the rattle of the earth on the secreted coffins was as silent as the hurried marches over the mountain . . . . . .

The playing fields were empty. The women-folk did not like to look towards those lonely goal-posts . . . .

"MacSwiney is Dead!"

The memory of a Central Council meeting in 1920 brings it all back. *"No games next Sunday—Terence MacSwiney is dead!"* So it was with all the great tragedies. One. . . two. . . three. . . gone from the team. In Tralee they said that the Rock Street team was gone (killed or maimed) before the fight was over. Kilkenny lost two All-Ireland men at the Coolbawn ambush. Cork lost her hurlers at Clonmult and Kilmichael.

Tipperary lost Hogan even as he stood in the back line, playing for his county. Even when he was borne with the colours of his county and of his country on his coffin, the Tans were surrounding Clonmel.

I think the G.A.A. died down after that. The Annual Convention was so small in '21, it would remind one of the days of Cusack. But there was sterner work to do.

The Truce! It was a glad sight to see the lads meeting again in the fields. And what a host of tricks they had learned in the camps. The Kerry team that the people afterwards said was invincible, was built in Ballykinlar. We read of Mick Collins throwing in the ball at the Leinster Hurling Final.

And of Cork, where they still kept drilling even when the days had grown quiet and when war-weary men could find enjoyment—playing or watching in silent dreaminess.

The Treaty! Great as was its shadow in the homes, in the offices, in the work-shops, was it not greatest in the councils of the G.A.A.? Dissension, bitter, heart-searing, creeping into the sunlit fields. Is it not sad to conjure up that double line of fifteens, with their bright colours, clasping hands for a friendly conflict. . . . Because the more cruel conflict was coming.

Civil War! They fought against the breaking, these clear-sighted men of the G.A.A. Perhaps because they hoped that this association of theirs would be a safety-valve to stop a flow of blood. But the fates were strong. The great brotherhood of the Gael was rent and tortured again.

Terence MacSwiney.

The Croke Memorial was unveiled in Thurles on the 4th June, '22. Cathal Brugha lay dead in Dublin on the 4th July.

So passed many whose Gaelic ideals had been the inspiration of the national resurrection.

But the ending of the bitterness is the triumph of the G.A.A.. How much of it passed when the Kerry team, who had been through the whole tragedy, came marching, solemnly and stately, to lay a beloved chief to rest in Glasnevin. Then men remembered the single-mindedness of Austin Stack. The county that had suffered most gave us champions in the years that followed. In the council-halls there was no reproaching when, carrying with them the memories of courageous men, the lads of Ireland came back, to one fold at least, which had kept a place for all our brothers.

Said Mr. Gold to Mr. Flake—

"Fine sight, a crowd of Irish Sportsmen, Mr. Flake." "What makes you say that, Mr. Gold?" "Well; they're men with Wills of their own." "Don't forget the Sportswomen, Mr. Gold." "Certainly not, Mr. Flake. They've got WILLS of their own, too."

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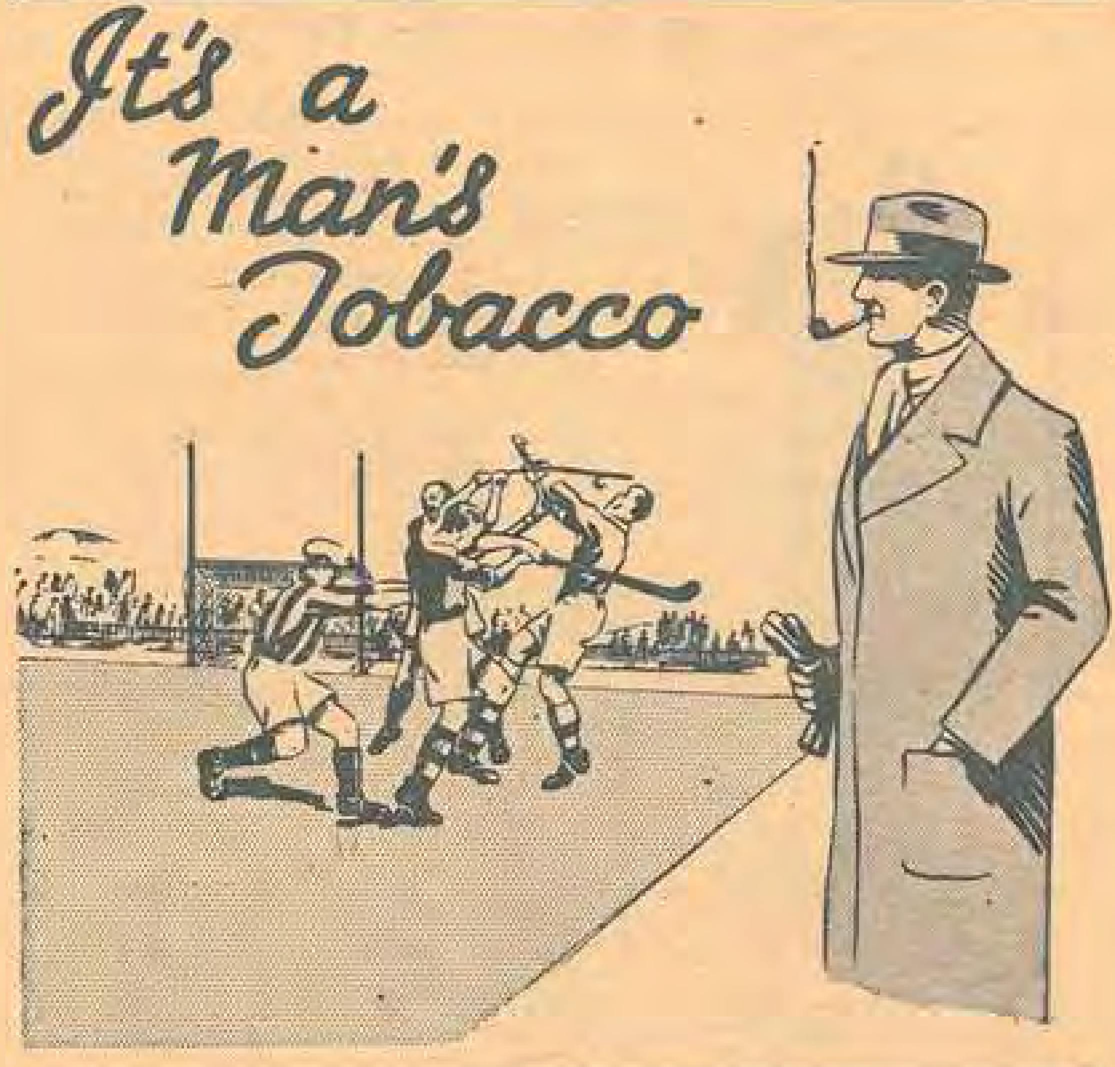

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Gaelic Games are Played in Five Continents

On the Veldt — by the Simla Hills—in the Bush —across the Rockies— everywhere Gaels remain Gaels and the old Games live.

By

Deoraidhe

Hurlers of Britain—drew with South Africa, Tailteann Games, 1932.

> "It would prove a difficult task to bring together at short notice a more splendid assemblage of specimens of manhood than the half-hundred clear-complexioned and clean-limbed, stalwart, bright-eyed, muscular, strapping and fine-looking young fellows who were grouped on the deck of the steamship, *Wisconsin*, at noon yesterday. The group would have inspired an artist in quest of a model for 'a picture of health.'
>
> "They were the representatives of Ireland's muscular Christianity, culled from every county of the Emerald Isle—literally the flower of Erin's manhood."
>
> —*New York Herald*, September, 1888.

SUCH was the description of the men whom the G.A.A. had picked for the "American Invasion" organised in the second year of the Association's existence. The following is in brief the history of events and circumstances which led to the decision. At the time, perhaps, more than now, international athletics were in vogue. Appropriately enough it was Irish exiles who forwarded the ideas in Canada and U.S.A.

Great countries were vieing with one another in war—a clean, athletic war. Athletes from foreign clubs were roving the world in search of laurels.

In 1888, members of American Clubs, Manhattan and New York, were in Dublin. Davin, insatiable organiser, sprang to the opportunity.

The Ballsbridge Olympia.

Through letters and articles published in the Gaelic newspaper, "Sport," an athletic contest was arranged at Ballsbridge. Thither gathered the athletes of Ireland and America on July 7 and 9, 1888. The contests were:—Putting the Shot, 16lb. (won by George R. Gray, New York, 44' 9"); Slinging the 56lb. (Dr. J. C. Daly, of Borrisokane, 26' 10½"); 100 Yards Race Flat (Fred Westing, Manhattan, 10 secs.); 120 Yards Hurdles (Pat Davin, brother of Maurice, G.A.A. President, 16 secs.); Mile Flat (T. P. Conneff, Manhattan, 4 mins. 26 1-5 secs.); 220 Yards (W. Dohm, N.Y., 22 3-5 secs.); Mile Cycle (P. P. Kilkelly, 2 mins. 36 2-5 secs.). (Although Pat Davin had given up athletics at the time, he came that day to win the All-Round Athletic Championship.)

That athletic contests, under the auspices of the G.A.A., were in full swing at the time, is shown by the fact that tournaments were held all over Ireland, in almost every town.

The Invasion Idea.

Perhaps the Irish were still eager to show their prowess, having beaten the Yanks. They wanted new fields to conquer. Maurice Davin, shrewd as ever, knew the temperament of his young comrades.

He would boost hurling and football in the States and Canada; he would win prestige for Irish athletics, and important, too, the Association would do with funds.

Money was required because of the cost of prizes with which the Council had rewarded prowess. Having explained the financial position, Davin launched his idea.

Almost immediately Michael Davitt, the people's land leader, sent a memorable letter to the "Freeman." It is important, because Davitt at the time advocated the Tailteann Games!

"We have to show that concurrently with our assertion of our natural and national rights, we can exhibit other claims to a universal recognition of our country's nationhood." He quoted the Welsh Eisteddfod in support of his idea.

But he sent his approval to the "American Invasion."

Mr. Davin's project of "invading" America and Canada with a force of fifty of the picked athletes of the G.A.A. is the second practical step towards the inauguration of Celtic festivals. The foundation of the G.A.A. was the first.

Like Shane in London.

So went the first G.A.A. team to America. In clothes of all-Irish manufacture, for Davin had laid down his rules beforehand. And the description of the "New York Herald" of the cloaks and breeches of the young giants as they stepped from the liner, reminds one of that on the entry of Shane O'Neill into London.

In all the athletic contests they took part in, they proved their prowess. And the few defeats they underwent were, after all, meted out in the majority by men of their own race who had made sadder voyages.

A marked detail of the time is the description of hurling matches in American papers—the rush and the swing, the stern scuffle, the thrilling score, "seemingly dangerous to the spectators, but the men were so expert as not to touch even the hair of a head."

What a contrast to the malicious reports appearing very often from Irish journalists in English newspapers!

Great tribute must be paid to the subscribers to the "Invaders," especially to Michael Davitt. When the great leader found himself in difficult circumstances afterwards, his generosity was rewarded, for the Association, true to its traditions, paid back its debt at a very opportune moment.

Three Continents.

The fact of the "Invasion" having been staged so early in the life of the G.A.A. shows that its founders realised that one of the objects should be, as far as possible, the holding together of the Irish element overseas.

Later we read of teams from Victoria and New South Wales competing for Australian championships in Hurling.

Along the East and West coasts of America and in the Great Middle country around Chicago, hurling and football teams came into being that have since made Gaelic history.

The twentieth century was young when Irish exiles, among them many who had formed part of the Irish Brigade in the Anglo-Boer War, played matches in the Veldt, and at present the G.A.A. is well organised in South Africa.

The Association, very early in its lifetime, passed a resolution forbidding affiliation of the Royal Irish Constabulary teams.

This was followed up by further resolutions, banning "soldiers, sailors and marines and all those in British military and naval service." These were precautions taken against movements in Ireland dangerous to the prestige of the G.A.A. The Land League was in full swing at the time and Davitt was patron.

Later they were pressed extensively against the British (Irish-filled and English) forces in the keener struggle.

Yet it may be a surprise to some to know that the different companies in the British Army, on the Simla Hills, India, play Gaelic (inter-company) football.

The Irish element is strong. Many of these men, especially in the Medical Corps, joined up after the Treaty. Most of them were in the misnamed "Irregulars" who sought work in England when failing to find work. What a far distance have those ex-interned Wild Geese flown!

Nearer Home.

The tours of the great champions in the twin games brought home to us the fruits of the American Invasion." It is not so important for us to note that Kerry and Tipperary defeated most of the teams they played, but that teams could be found across the Atlantic as good as those at home. May it long be so! The revival of Aonach Tailteann, which was Davitt's desire, drew the links closer, and the inclusion of South Africa strengthened the foreign connection.

It is a pity, and yet a pleasure, to find that Shinty and Hurling exist in their separate Gaelic areas at each side of the Moyle.

Not a little of the spread of the Irish Gaelic games in the Lowlands of Scotland is due to the Tirchonaill and Mayo migrants and exiles, who travel across for the "tawtie-hoking" each year.

To any who watched the "Hurling versus Shinty" match at Croke Park in '32, it was obvious that

if the Scots practiced the Irish version, they would prove greater hurlers than the Irish, for had they the air-swing and the pick-up habit with their low, off-the-ground shots they would be invincible.

A shinty-man, too, who can hit with the smaller stick with such accuracy should have little difficulty, even with harder shots if using the *camán*.

In Australia they play a "native" game of football. I quote the word because it is really Gaelic football almost as played in its early stages, but revised in a different manner to the game here.

What a scope we have for a wider G.A.A. in which the scattered races of the Celt could take part, for which Croke Park would become in truth a National Stadium!

Not for Selfish Glory.

I would not have it that the G.A.A. would, as indeed it could, become the greatest international organisation in the world for the mere selfish glory of Irishmen.

It has a far greater outlook. Greater because it is but a lesser thing—a part of a great latent movement for the evangelisation of the cultural, economic and athletic world.

For we may be a great race, who fought the battles of the world when the oppressors were trying to annihilate us—but we are greater because we have always envisaged a system in which all races of all nations and colours are brothers, a finer ideal than any movement which has captured the enthusiasm of the peoples yet.

American hurlers, beaten by Ireland, Aonach Tailteann, 1932.

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TUBBERADORA, Champions of Ireland, 1895 and 1896.

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BOHERLAHAN, All-Ireland Champions, 1925.

Reading downwards on right:—
"IRELANDS," Croke Cup Winners, 1896; All-Ireland, 1891-'92-'94.

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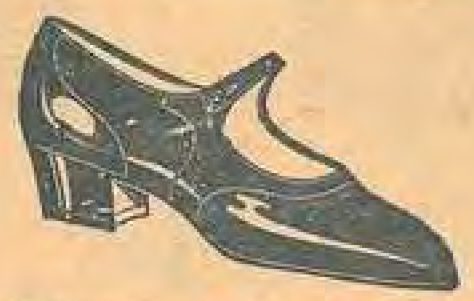

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Says
Green Flag

And the Kerry accent is heard in Croke Park so often, one would think that the National Stadium was one of their Kingdom's Colonies!

Kerry—Champions of the World—after American Tour.

THERE was once a Kerry man who attended some sporting conference or other, and on being asked what county he represented, replied :—

"I don't represent a county, I represent a Kingdom."

In the realms of Gaelic football Kerry has for years been a Kingdom in itself, but though to-day Kerry's long suit in Gaelic games is football.—

it was through hurling that the Kingdom's escutcheon was first blazoned with All-Ireland honours.

This was in 1891 when the men from Ballyduff and Kilmoyley, two small North Kerry villages, hurled their way to victory over Crossabeg, the Wexford champions, at Clonturk Park.

Extra time had to be played before the bare-footed camán wielders from the coast emerged victors by a point, and the first and last All-Ireland hurling title came to Kerry.

Though this was the first index the Gaelic world had that Kerry was awake, the national games had been slowly taking shape from the day the G.A.A. was launched.

Right from the Start.

There were willing workers on the "Kingdom" right from the start; men like Maurice Moynihan of Tralee and J. P. O'Sullivan of Killorglin, throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the task of organising the athletic strength and disciplining it.

Teams were organised and matches played under the code just framed, and the earlier records we have are those of Kenmare capturing the county hurling title and the Laune Rangers the football honours. The men from Neidim were ousted the next year by the Kilmoyley men who, in turn, gave way to their neighbours in Ballyduff. It was during the latter's reign as county champions that the memorable game at Clonturk was played.

The late Dick Fitzgerald—Kerry's great Captain.

By the firesides of the Cashen fishermen's cottages are still told tales of prowess performed by "Mick Shaun" O'Sullivan, Jim McDonnell, the Quanes, and "Captain" Mahony.

The Laune Rangers farmed the county football title for four years, to be succeeded by Ballymacelligott. The men from Killorglin and Cromane, however, resumed their sway, and it was during their second term as champions that the Kingdom made its first appearance in the football arena as contenders for premier honours. J. P. O'Sullivan captained this team, which was drawn from the district round Killorglin and Glencar.

The football craft and generalship which in later years made Kerry famous was not apparent

on the March day in 1893 when the final was played. Dublin (Young Irelands) defeating the men from the Laune by 1-4 to 0-3.

County titles changed hands in the succeeding years and on the hurling shield we find the names of Ballyduff and Kilmoyley freely scattered, while now and again up to 1913 come the names of O'Dorney, Kenmare, Tralee (Celtic), and Lixnaw. Since the latter gained the honours in 1913 the county title has remained with Tralee.

Lean Years, Too.

When the Laune Rangers lost at Clonturk their star appears to have been on the wane, and Ballymacelligott again came into the picture. There were lean years to follow, and it was not till the century had been well on its way that Kerry again appeared as challengers for All-Ireland honours. This time again it was the footballers who in 1905 won the 1903 title.

From 1900 onward there had been growing up in Tralee a band of footballers whose names were destined to boom large in the story of those years and whose influence on the game still lives in Kerry.

Those were the John Mitchels, whose club colours were green and gold—the now famous sweater having its origin in the Tralee Club.

Like a new star in the firmament the club shot up and made itself felt in a short time.

Kerry-Kildare!

They drew from outlying clubs to capture the Munster title, beating Clare in the final, and on a beautiful July Sunday faced the Leinster champions—Kildare—at Tipperary in a herculean struggle.

This match was the first index of the growing strength of the Gaelic codes, and I remember well hearing stories of how Tipperary was cleared out of food and drink that day so huge was the throng.

On that day, too, was born the war whoop "Up Kerry," a cry which has so often rallied the Kingdom footballers when their fortunes were on the ebb

and has been heard on every field from Bailieboro' to Bantry—even it has re-echoed along the shores of Manhattan as the stalwarts from Kerry have battled for the world's crown on the playing pitches of the United States.

The names of the men who donned the Green and Gold sweater that day at Tipperary (there were 17 of them) are household words still in Tralee and Castleisland, where they will tell you of the Gormans, Maurice McCarthy, Charley Duggan, John Thomas Fitzgerald, Con Healy, Den Curran, R. Kirwan, and Denny Breen, while in Killarney they speak of Dick Fitzgerald, Patsy Dillon, Lynch, John Buckley, Tom Sullivan, Dan McCarthy, and Kissane. There was one man on that team whose name afterwards was destined to play such a part in Irish history: whose pluck and grit that day were but a small indication of the courage which marked his activities in the larger game in which he took such a prominent part for years.

That man was Austin Stack, whose connection with Kerry football was a long and honoured one.

The game that July Sunday (the forerunner of many such) was packed full of thrills. Kildare were in the lead to almost call of time, but with a last-minute rally Kerry scored a goal which, however, was disputed, and a replay was ordered by the Central Council. This took place at Cork, where the scores were level when the final whistle went. Cork was again the venue for the second replay, and on this occasion

Kerry dash asserted itself, the Kingdom emerging triumphant from a struggle which had roused all Gaeldom and definitely placed the rivals in the forefront of Gaelic history.

The next year Austin Stack captained the team when the second title was won at Cork, the Mitchels again being the standard-bearers of the "Kingdom" and Dublin (Kickhams) their rivals. Kildare had their revenge the next year at Thurles, when the All Whites represented by the Roseberry club beat the Mitchels' pick, Austin Stack being again a member of the team. In these years the Tralee club held the county title for nine years and in that period Kerry figured in six All-Ireland finals, winning three, losing two, and refusing to travel to play Louth in the sixth.

It was this refusal and its sequel which aroused the county-wide interest in the meeting of Kerry and Louth in the final of the Croke Memorial Tournament in 1913. Louth had won the 1912 championship the previous November, and rankling with the thought of the 1910 incident the Kingdom footballers and their supporters were anxious to have a tilt at the title holders.

The match assumed the importance of an All-Ireland, both teams going into training for the contest,

which was staged at Croke Park. The men who met Louth that year have often been described as Kerry's best team and certainly it was made up of some great footballers, captained by the finest forward of all times, Dick Fitzgerald, and trained by men like Jerry Collins and Dinny O'Connor. Jack Lawlor, Tom Rice, Paddy Healy, and Paddy Kennelly were among the backs, Con Murphy and Pat O'Shea at centre field had no peer at that time nor since, while the football craft of Jack Moriarty, Con Clifford, Denis Doyle, Jack Skinner, and Paddy Breen is still spoken of where Gaels foregather. Thousands of Kerry men and women made the journey (which to many of them has become a sort of pilgrimage since) to Croke Park on that lovely May Sunday.

But when referee M. F. Crowe had blown the final blast neither side could claim victory,

and the Kingdom followers came back resolved to wrest the laurels from the Wee County at the next meeting. Money came in from every part of the county and from exiled Kerry men and women to defray the expenses of training the team. There were misgivings about the back line, and

Maurice McCarthy, who had played against Kildare eight years before, staged one of the most spectacular "come backs" in the history of the game,

the veteran filling the full-back position as brilliantly as he did in the heyday of his career.

The Kingdom flag was triumphant, and to prove this win was no flash in the pan, Wexford were defeated in the All-Ireland final of that year after a drawn game. The team which won from Wexford was practically the

(Continued on page 25.)

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THE G.A.A. WAS DEAD IN DERRY—

BUT THE YOUNG MEN GAVE IT NEW LIFE

By

P. Larkin

A FEELING of shame is the first impression that comes to one who sets himself the task of recording the progress of Gaelic games in this corner and stronghold of old Tyrone, now dubbed County Londonderry. But the response to the thawing-out of the recent revival in Gaelic sport gives one hope that the travail at the birth may be forgotten in the life and vigour of that scion of our native soil. Till sixty or seventy years ago the only game known to the Gaelic-speaking inhabitants, and, indeed, to many of the planters, was that oldest of European games, as Dr. O'Brien calls it, the "military exercise" of the old Carthaginian-trained standing army of Ireland—*Camán*. That it was a strenuous game, and one only suited to the very best trained athletes, is shown by the fact that the *bailthe* or goals were sometimes as far as eight miles apart and a single goal scored decided the issue. As to the standard of skill expected in the game, a quotation from one of our old Gaelic tales and the testimony of an old player concerning one of the last matches played between North and South Derry leave no doubt. The old story, a skit on Irish national politics in early times, represents the hero of the piece as follows:—

D'imthigh sé in-a ruaig agus i ruaighean peatha ag imirt le n-a bhois nó le n-a chois no le béal a chamáin gur cuireadh sé an liathroid ins na fior-glinnci gur ar a bhois ar a chois no ar bheal an chamáin cheapadh sé í.

However, in comparatively recent times we are told that their opponents never touched the ball from goal to goal till the North Derry team, bandying it from one to another, drove it through.

Considering that it was a wooden *cnag* was used in those days, this is rather hard to believe. To-day this noble game is slowly crawling back into the limelight of public recognition. However, as it is Gaelic football is the *piece de resistance* of the games revival, we hasten to record the facts of recent development. Gaelic football was set on foot here some fifty years ago. But as only two teams, viz., Ballinascreen and Dunamore, took up the game in these mountain glens separated by natural features and cut off from each other by groups of planters, the game did not long survive.

The Reorganisation.

Glenullin, Garvagh, Newbridge, Ballinderry, Magherafelt and Lissan took part. This group held together till 1928, when, chiefly through the aspersion of political stigmata on the movement and the greater vogue of the Soccer code, once more the impulse died down. But once more, in 1933, thanks to the persistence of several "die-hards," a new fillip was given to the game, and at length it seems to be in fair way of coming into the limelight of popular favour.

Last year a whole-hearted and interesting competition was fought out between the following teams:—Glenullin Mitchels, Newbridge St. Teresas, Ballinderry Shamrocks, Baile na Sgrine St. Colms, Desertmartin St. Martins, Magherafelt St. Josephs, Maghera St. Luarachs, Castledawson St. Colmcilles, Lavey Erin's Own, Ballylifford Sarsfields, Loup St. Patricks.

In the League Ballinderry ran out well deserved winners, Draperstown and Desertmartin tying for second place. In the Dean McGlinchy Cup competition, Newbridge defeated Magherafelt, thereby retaining it for the years 1933-4. In the present year the same two competitions, viz., the county championship and the Dean McGlinchy Cup, the same group are entered for the coming season, with the addition of Keenaght Wolfe Tones.

The standard of football played has risen most convincingly in the past year, and it is to be expected that in the near future a Derry county team will have to be seriously reckoned with in the provincial competition. The success of last year, and the good struggle made by the county team, should be gratifying to promoters and "fans" alike, and I cannot part from the subject without congratulating Seán Mac Diarmada, of Ballinascreen, an untiring Gael, in the unexpectedly good results of last season. Buaidh leobhtha is treise.

Hurling in North Derry has in the last year taken on a new lease of life. Reports from that centre show that eight new teams have fought their way through the past year, though handicapped by the lack of suitable grounds. Mr. B. C. Fay promised to interest himself in the matter. The year's progress is not altogether a cause for congratulation; but the fact that they have been able to field a team against the veterans of Donegal and Antrim, though heavily defeated, speaks well for the determination and grit of the grouped teams. The following were the teams in last year's group:—St. Patrick's H.C.; Young Sarsfields H.C.; Frank Carney's H.C.; Kevin Barry H.C.; Gaels H.C.; John Mitchels H.C.; Strabane H.C.; Sons of Erin, Burt.

Members of Derry's Council who took part in the reorganisation.

HOW DERRY CAME BACK

T. Mac a' Bhaird

AT the beginning of the present century the position of the G.A.A. in Derry City and district was very healthy and vigorous. A number of Clubs with traditions carried over from the late 'eighties seemed firmly established as radiating points for the spread of national athletics in the Foyleside city.

There were the Claudy "John Mitchels"—called after the great patriot whose birthplace lies outside the village of Claudy;

the "St. Patrick's," "Hibernians," "Emmets," and many other well-known clubs who were reputed for their skill in hurling. Hurling was the favourite game in those days, and Gaelic football only took second place. So far had the skill of these clubs developed that in 1904

a Derry selection forged its way into the All-Ireland Junior Hurling semi-final, played at the then Jones's Road grounds.

Reaction.

The reaction from the non-realisation of the high hopes generated on this occasion seems to have had a bad effect on the fortunes of the Derry G.A.A., for after this event a very lean period set in, during which organisation was of a sporadic nature. The Association languished for a time, but in 1910 some active spirits prominently associated with the national revival on wider fronts determined to promote vigorously the work of the G.A.A.

The names of Paddy Shields, John Fox and Pat Hegarty, all interned after Easter, 1916, come to mind in connection with the reorganisation.

From 1910 onwards, all during the European war years, and the War of Independence time, the Association was carried forward. Even in the most difficult phases of the Tan war the G,A.A. in Derry was promoted with enthusiasm. The country being under military rule during these years, it was a regular sight to be witnessed at Gaelic matches of large numbers of British military in full war paraphernalia. On one occasion the "Competent" Military Authority issued an order prohibiting all matches under G.A.A. auspices without a permit.

Defiance.

Immediately scores of matches were organised—in many cases by people who never played either hurling or football before—and played in defiance of the army of occupation.

At one of these games, played at Corrody grounds, overlooking the Foyle, the players scrambled over ditches and played the match in full view of hundreds of steel-helmeted and armed troops on duty outside the grounds. The military ban was lifted. Plain-clothes police then attempted to secure admission to matches for the purpose of "spotting," but in many cases they were roughly treated by angry spectators, and this, too, was abandoned. In 1921 the G.A.A. had reached its highest peak in Derry City, having under its jurisdiction, as well as Derry County, the Eastern portion of Donegal.

Then came the division in the National forces, and the organisation collapsed liked a pricked bubble.

The Debacle of '22."

Of the fifty strong clubs existing in 1921, not five remained a short year later. The Civil War had claimed large numbers of both players and officials who were engaged in Donegal. Until 1929 the G.A.A. was dead, and of those left out of the debacle of 1922 no one had sufficient enthusiasm or inclination to attempt a revival. However, in 1929, when another generation had reached adult age, the spirit of Gaeldom manifested itself anew. A group of young men formed the Wolfe Tone G.F.C. In emulation of this, another group formed the Gaels Hurling Club, and thus the seeds of reorganisation were sown. Acting in co-operation, these two clubs convened a meeting of sympathisers and the nucleus of a county organisation was formed.

Youth Triumphs.

Despite all the disappointments of the past the eternal optimism of youth had triumphed. As a means of popularising the games, and also to secure necessary finance, an exhibition hurling match between Dublin and Cork was arranged. The match proved a great success, attracting people from every part of Ulster. The crowd, most of which had never before witnessed a classic display of the national pastime was delighted and anxious to assist in the local development of such a game. As a result, hurling and football clubs sprang into existence, and at the first Annual Convention following the revival, twenty clubs registered, including a number from the Innishowen peninsula of Donegal. The young men responsible in greatest degree for re-establishing the games of the Gael were P. Stewart, Sean MacAdam, Sean Dolan (present Secretary, Derry District Board), and Cecil King.

I had the honour of being chosen as Secretary by this sincere band of energetic Gaels. Afterwards, when appointed Secretary to the Derry County Board, they proved to be most valuable and obliging helpers.

In the five years that have passed since the spirit of apathy was dispelled, progress has marked every move of the Derry G.A.A. In the first year the County Junior football team fought its way into the Ulster Football final and in the next year into the final of the Dr. McKenna Cup competition. The County hurling selection has twice figured in Provincial hurling finals in the past three years.

To-day, clubs exist in every part of the city and county, and most important of all, a strong G.A.A. organisation exists in many schools in every district.

I have kept this significant item of news to the last, because with it I can conclude by prophesying that the future of Gaeldom is safe in Derry.

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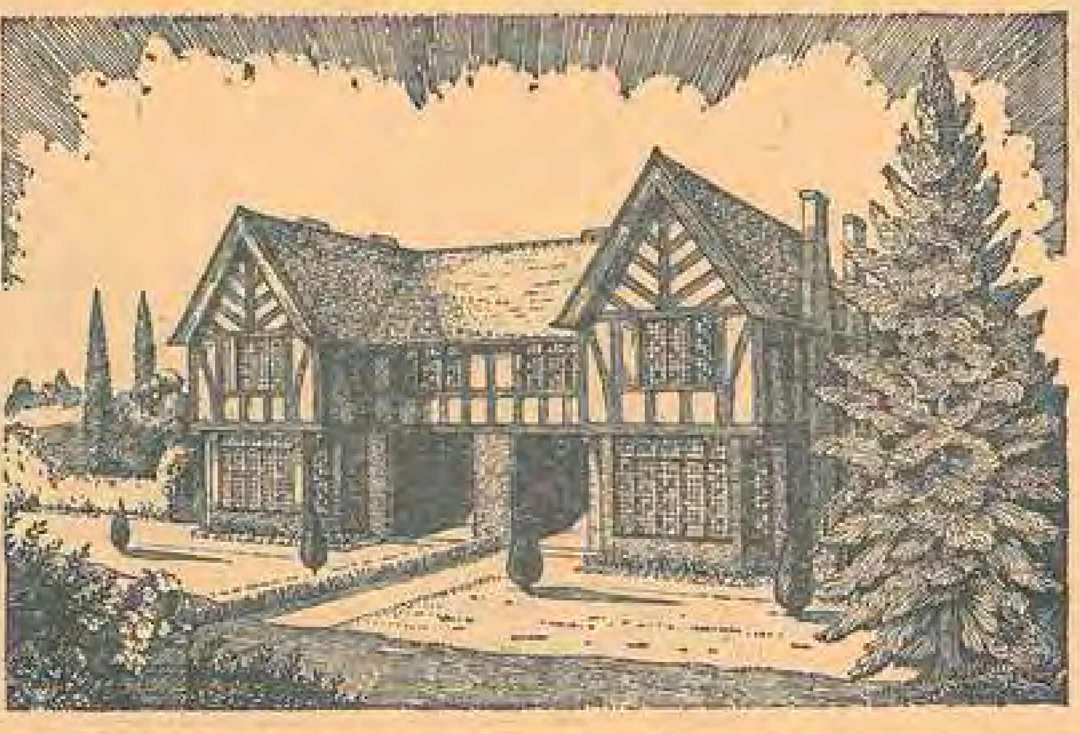

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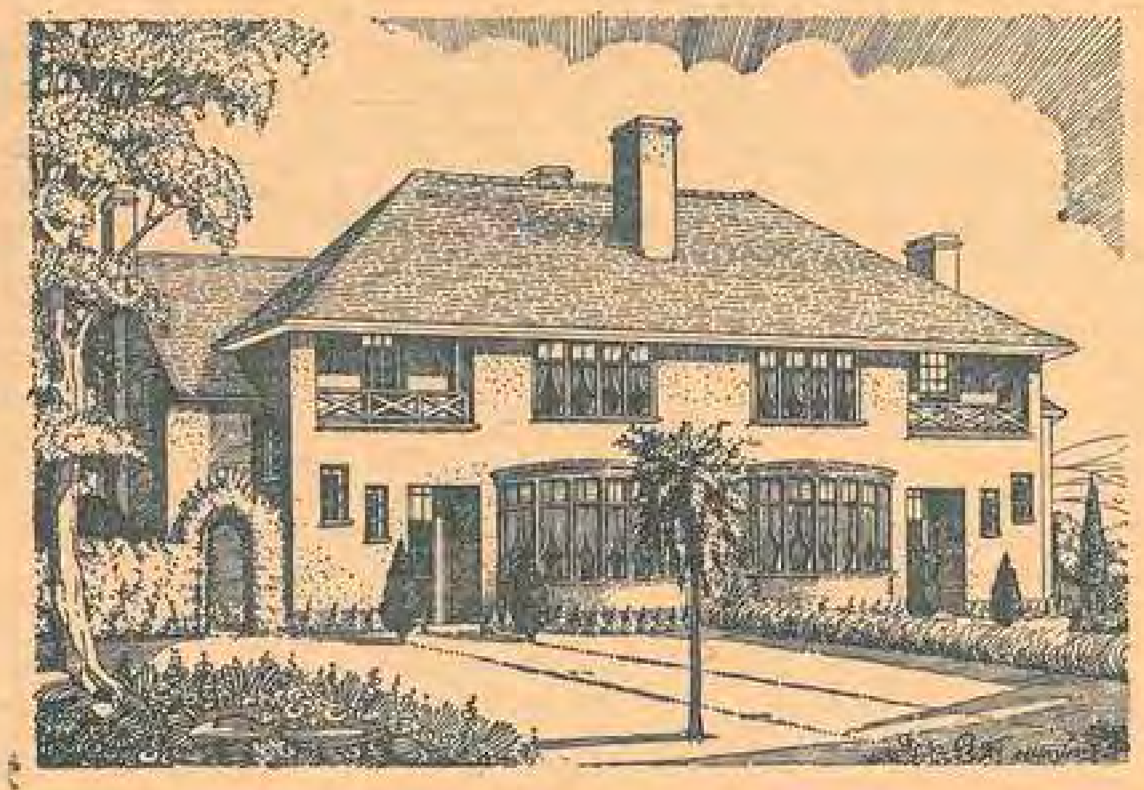

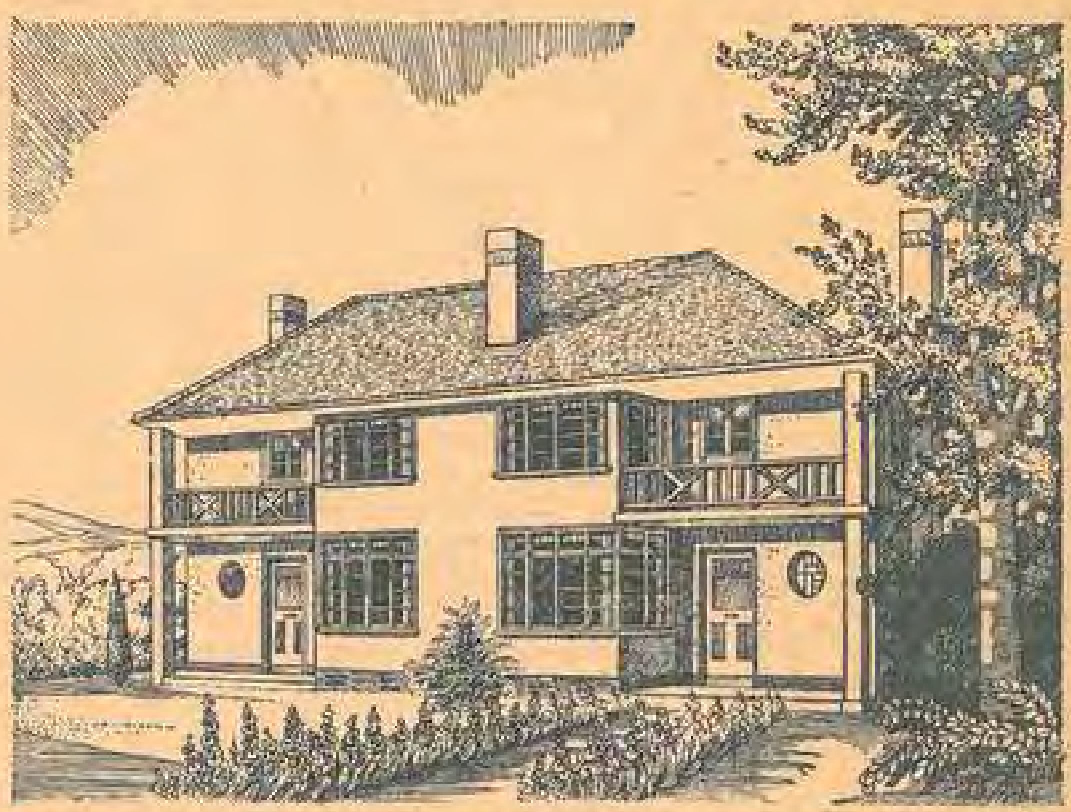

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Leitrim's greatest games were inter-parish.

THE Gaelic Athletic Association was only two years old when the first Leitrim branch was established.

The honour of being the first Leitrim unit of the Association belongs to Killenumary, where a Hurling and Football Club was formed in 1886. Considerable progress was made in the next few years, and teams sprang into existence in Mohill, Drumshambo, Ballinamore, Drumveilly, Fenagh and Aughnasheelan. In 1889 Leitrim was included in the Connacht Football Championships, and were drawn against Roscommon in the first round. Leitrim were victors, but the Championship was not taken any further that year, and this auspicious start went for nothing.

It was in this same year that Leitrim formed its first Co. Committee, the officers of which were: Thomas Fallon, President; John Reynolds, Treasurer, and John Mulligan, Secretary.

At the annual Convention of the Association held at Thurles in '89, Mr. T. Sheridan, from Mohill, was elected a member of the Central Council.

Dwindling Fortunes.

Leitrim continued to take a prominent part in the work of the G.A.A., and in 1890 had county teams competing in both Hurling and Football Championships. However, in that same year the number of affiliated clubs in the county seems to have dwindled, for in the balance sheet for 1890 Leitrim fees to the Central Council only amounted to £1.

This was but the forerunner of more serious trouble which occurred in 1891 following the Parnell "split."

At the famous Convention held in the Rotunda, Dublin, in April of 1891 a Drumshambo delegate spoke in favour of the resolution:

> "That this Convention is resolved to support the policy of independent opposition and freedom of opinion under the leadership of Mr. Parnell, and that we, as the united Gaels of Ireland, pledge ourselves to support the movement in progress for the release of our brothers now suffering in English jails for political offences."

No Affiliated Clubs.

Despite the passing of this resolution unanimously, friction developed, and for the next few years the Association in Leitrim, in common with most other parts, was derelict. Even as late as 1897 there were only sixteen affiliated clubs in all Connacht, and Leitrim was not represented at all in that list. It was not until 1904 that active interest in the Gaelic Athletic revival movement was evinced in Leitrim. Of course during all the blank period Gaels residing in the border parishes were assisting Roscommon, Longford, Sligo and Fermanagh teams.

The peculiar geographical situation of Leitrim has always had this effect—it has been overshadowed by its numerous encircling neighbour counties.

However, in 1904 a very effective organisation had sprung up in Leitrim. The following teams competed in the 1904-5 Championships:—Barnacoola "O'Neils," Gortlettra, Fenagh, Ballinamore, Mohill, Eslin, Aughnasheelan, Drumveilly, Gorvagh, and Annaduff. Of these, only the "O'Neils" have disappeared entirely, while the once famous Annaduff Club now only ranks in the Junior grade.

They had a great team in Barnacoola in those early days, and a great following. Indeed it is said (whether truthfully or not I cannot vouch for) that the crowds that went every place the "O'Neils'" colours were to be seen won the matches and not the sturdy fifteen players.

Parish Rivalry.

Matches then were not the rather tame affairs that we witness nowadays. Parish rivalry was stronger than it is to-day, and a match was an inter-parish demonstration. Men, women and children attended in thousands, and most of the young men and girls travelled to these fixtures on bicycles. I remember in Ballinamore one summer Sunday long ago counting as many as three hundred bicycles parked around the hedges of the football ground.

One thing the Gaels of Leitrim can point to with pride is the fact that foreign games have never made an inroad in the county.

Soccer and Rugby and cricket were tried, but received so little encouragement that the attempt was given up. Another feature which is not so gratifying is the decline of hurling in Leitrim. When the Association was formed in 1886 there was a wealth of hurling talent in the county. Hurling had always been played there, and football was an unknown art. The early hurling reverses sustained in the '89-'90 Championships seems to have had a discouraging effect on Leitrim, for the national pastime was discontinued and all concentration devoted to football. This was a peculiarly short-sighted policy on the part of the Leitrim authorities, because with a little polish added to the native hurling vigour to be found in the county Leitrim would have, in all probability, developed a hurling skill which would have prevented Galway from holding the isolated honour of provincial champions for years.

By

Tomas O Floinn

This defect can be remedied yet, and in the right way. Hurling is being played in the schools in every part of Leitrim, and the boys are showing great aptitude for it. The county authorities will certainly be remiss in their duty if they do not encourage as much as possible this tendency and ensure that when the hurling boys leave school they will have the opportunity of progressing until, who knows, some of them may one day represent their province in an All-Ireland hurling final at the National Stadium. Leitrim have only one Senior Provincial Championship trophy to their credit.

In 1927 the county became Connacht football champions, but lost it in the following season to Sligo. What might be regarded as of more importance for the future was the forging of the county Junior selection into the final of 1931. They were defeated by Galway after a dour struggle, in which the element of luck favoured the Tribesmen. In the Connacht football team which played Munster in the 1927 Railway Cup final, Martin and Dolan, from Leitrim, were conspicuous on the field. A Leitrim footballer, Jim Shanley, had the honour of playing for Ireland against America in the International Games of 1928.

Leitrim has not covered itself exactly with glory on the G.A.A. playing fields, but it has at least held on to the national ideal in games for the sake of that ideal and not for the trophies of the chase. That is a thought which the more spectacular and successful counties could ponder on with profit.

Red Hand Hurling Club, winners of Belfast Hurling League and County Championship, Season, 1902.

"AMERICAN INVASION TEAM, 1888

ATHLETES.

J. S. Mitchell, Emly; Wm. Real, Hallasgreen; W. McCarthy, Macroom; P. Looney, do.; T. J. O'Mahony, Roscarbery; P. Keohan, Dungarvan; T. Barry, do.; T. M. O'Connor, Ballyclough; W. Phibbs, Glenville; D. Shanahan, Kilfinane.

ATHLETES, WHO WERE ALSO HURLERS.

Pat Davin, Carrick-on-Suir (brother of Maurice Davin); P. O'Donnell, Carrick-on-Suir; J. McCarthy, Staker Wallace Hurling Club, Limerick; M. Connery, do.; J. Connery, do.; D. Power, Shanballymore; J. Mooney, Ballyhea.

OTHER HURLERS.

Tom O'Grady, Moycarkey; J. O'Brien, do.; J. Stapleton, Thurles; T. Ryan, Clonoulty; W. Prendergast, Clonmel (Sec., G.A.A.); P. Sutton, Metros., Dublin; G. Burgess, Dun Laoghaire; J. Furlong, Davitts; J. Hayes, Faughs; Frank Coghlan, Kickhams; Jas. Royce, Oulart Hill; P. J. Molohan, Monastereven; P. Fox, Mooncoin; M. Curran, Castlecomer; J. Grace, Tullaroan; J. Dunne, Rahan, Offaly; J. Nolan, Dunkerin, do; J. Cordial, Kinnelty, do; P. Meleady, Birr; P. Ryan, Rathdowney; J. McEvoy; Knockaroo; D. Godfrey, Murroe; J. Coughlan, Buttevant; M. Hickey, Carrickbeg; J. Rourke, Kilbane, Clare; J. FitzGibbon, O'Gonnolloe; P. Minogue, Tulla; T. Mooney, Ballyhea, Cork.

WOLFE TONE'S GRAVE

Hurling and Football Tournaments were promoted in 1889 by the Kildare County Committee to repair Wolfe Tone's grave at Bodenstown. A similar tournament, fixed for Lynagh, Co. Galway, was proclaimed by the police.

POSTAL RATES

Postal Rates on Special G.A.A. Supplement and issue "Irish Press," April 14, 1934:—

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Pearse
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Away back in 1890, we began hurling and Gaelic football with Pearse, when both of us were attending the Christian Brothers School at Westland Row, and ever since we have kept in intimate touch with Gaelic games.

UNION JACKS were never flown from our premises. When in Stafford and Wormwood Jails and also in Frongoch, the same tradition was upheld. Raids during Black-and-Tan régime injured OUR athletic business. But we are still Gaels and look to fellow Gaels to remember us when they have business to give away. GIVE A FELLOW GAEL A CHANCE OF QUOTING FOR YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

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WE DON'T REPRESENT A COUNTY—

(*Continued from Page* 20.)

same as triumphed over Louth. Jack Moriarty having departed for the States, his place was taken by Johnny O'Mahony, of Killarney. Next year again Kerry were victorious in the All-Ireland, the Loc Garman men being their rivals, but in the following year

the "Boys of Wexford" had their revenge, and for ten years there is a blank.

Looking over the records of Kerry County Championships for those ten years, it is easy to understand the wane of the Kingdom star, and there is an early index of

how the activities of Kerry Gaels took them away from games to more serious work in the national struggle.

During the years 1923-24, the internment camps held many Kerry prisoners, and here was built the nucleus of the team which more than any brought such fame to the Green and Gold. With the release of these internees and the cessation of hostilities, there was a sudden awakening of Gaeldom in the Kingdom,

the first index of which was the bold showing made by a team of ex-internees against the Kerry team of that year in a challenge match at Tralee.

The influence of these men was manifest from that moment, and for the next decade of years men like Joe Barrett, Jacky Ryan, John Riordan, "Gal" Slattery, Rory O'Connell, Bill Landers, and John Joe Sheehy, were in the forefront of the Kingdom battles on the playing fields here and in the U.S.A. Round these men was built that Kerry team which for long bestrode the Gaelic world like a Colossus,

and for four years held an unbeaten record on both sides of the Atlantic.

The resurgence took the team into the 1923 All-Ireland final, which was played in September, 1924, Dublin defending their title. Those who were at Croke Park that day will long remember

the reception Kerry got from Dublin supporters, and will remember, too, the ovation John Joe Sheehy in particular received.

to prove the correctness of this opinion, the Green and Gold colours triumphed in the 1924 final, which was played in April, 1926. There were changes in the personnell of the team, "Johnny" Murphy, Jack Walsh, Bob Stack, and M. Prenderville, taking the places of Paddy McKenna, "Los" Kelleher, E. Moriarty, and Denis O'Donoghue. There was inaugurated that day a partnership at midfield which long held sway and had much to do with many of Kerry's greatest triumphs.

This was the partnership of the brilliant footballers, Con Brosnan and Bob Stack.

These two formed a combination which was at least as effective as that of Pat O'Shea and Con Murphy in the earlier days, while it lived much longer and saw greater glories come to the Kingdom arms.

Kerry are already preparing to join in the Jubilee Year celebrations, and there is a feeling that to fittingly honour the occasion the "Kingdom" should reorganise and train its footballers to capture fresh honours in the championships.

YOU'LL FIND A NATIONAL TEACHER IN EVERY CLUB

Because the colleges where these men are trained are truly Gaelic

By "Rhyzome"

St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra.

IT was a schoolmaster's idea, anyway, the G.A.A. Cusack had to teach languages and mathematics to young "grinders" at 4 Gardiner Place. I think if you counted all the club secretaries, or even the club members, in the country, you would find that the majority are teachers. S.P.D. and De la Salle have a lot to do with that, De la Salle being the teachers' training college in Waterford, and S.P.D. being St. Patrick's, Drumcondra.

There is at least one player at present on every great county football and hurling team who has spent a training term in either of these *alma maters*.

It happens this way. A young lad plays on the school team of a Brothers' school in some quiet town; or in the greener playground of a rural National School. Teachers have proved by now that athletics make a youth more apt, when learning hard facts about algebra and rules of grammar. The "Intermediates" and "Leaving" come. Maybe the "Scholarship." And suddenly one finds the slip of paper arriving—the "call."

Then there is the buying of clothes and slippers and boots and portfolios, some of which he might use, many he won't. A Christian Brother or just the plain "master," who seems to have grown suddenly and rather sadly kind, grips his hand and murmurs, "for the honour of the old school, lad."

The wrench of the home parting, the journey to the big city, the clanging of iron gates . . . . New faces, strange rules, rosaries, Masses, studies—a deep quiet. . . . . You are in training.

"Home, Sweet Home."

I was in St. Patrick's, Drumcondra. I could say, though to S.P.D. lads the phrase has grown hackneyed—"the best two years of my life." I remember the first nights, the break-ups for the terms, the singing of "Home, Sweet Home" in chorus on the last nights of the months. Picture the scene. . . . long rows of faces, eager, ascetic, jovial, generous, Irish—knives and forks waving as they stand by the supper tables . . . . for the faithful singing of the tender song of remembrance. I remember how we, on that first night, waited rather fearfully the coming of the seniors. We had heard "gruesome" stories of how unsophisticated juniors had ired the superior *daoine uaisle* and suffered awful cold water baths—fully dressed! And how they warned us when we came—we must not go up the senior staircase, enter a senior dormitory, and never, never go around the "quod" clockwise—but anti-clockwise.

I remember nights when we were allowed out city to see "Hamlet" at the Abbey. Nights when we were broke. As Chesterton puts it:

For those were the days when work was scrappy
And rare in our pockets the mark of the mint;
When we were angry and poor and happy,
And proud of seeing our names in print.

Different classes, the garden-work, the science "lab," the Gaodhluinn, the maths which a certain professor could draw far away from sordidness, the "criticism lessons" when one had to teach a class before the whole college and listen to one's comrades being made to criticise the lesson afterwards. I remember the bright and the dark days, the great opening of the mind and the comradeship.

The comradeship that was strengthened by the games. For most of all I remember the football and the hurling, the handball and the bowling, the leaping and the throwing of weights.

West, South, East——

The spirit of the G.A.A. entered into St. Patrick's long ago. It purified itself there. It emanates from there in a yearly exodus of boys made men, healthy, vigorous, clean-minded, clean-limbed lads, for the West and the South, for the East and the ——. 'Tis true 'tis pity! But the dash remains. Only the great North-West is left to S.P.D. now. There are six counties whose children cannot be taught in the Gaelic way of St. Patrick's and De la Salle.

I often think that the separated North would shine more brightly in the realm of the Gaelic games, were not that hated rule in existence. For the lad of the Bannside or the Lagan, if he does not come to Drumcondra for training, must forbear to teach in the county of his home.

We had some great boys from the North. They are training teams for work and play around the Twenty-Six Counties now.

Ambulance!

Drumcondra College has a peculiar way of picking out its footballers. The poor raw juniors crowd around the notice-board to verify the strange news:

> "Thirty juniors, alphabetically first on the list, will turn out in togs on Wednesday evening at 3.30 p.m. for football."

So they come, glad to have names like Allen and Burke and Conlon, and eager for the fray. Grave-faced seniors arrange the picking. The ball is thrown in. Some be-spectacled student who has never kicked a football in his life falls over it. And then pandemonium!

From the quod rushes a long line of seniors, dressed in all kinds of weird clothes, but usually with bedclothes and caps made like those of Arab sheiks. They whoop war cries. One is in "mufti" carrying a valise and tall hat. It is the "doctor." Two more carry a long stool which is the "ambulance."

The be-spectacled youth is carried off, more forcibly than is usually the case with patients. Whenever a junior falls, the "ambulance" rushes for its victim.

The Watchers.

The juniors enjoy the fun, but especially those who call themselves Meagher and O'Sullivan and Shanahan.

But standing apart unnoticed are last year's captains, duly elected by order of their seniors who are now out in the teaching world, and every likely player is spotted, noted and filed for reference!

Then the days lengthen out. The house teams are picked. You will find Mayomen, Kerrymen, Kildaremen generally captaining the football teams. The hurling men are usually led by Cork, Kilkenny and Tipp., and the great hurling counties. Dubliners scatter through both games.

The "Erin's Hopes."

And what names for the teams, called maybe from history or rural science—we find *Na Macaméataigh* (the Mahomedans), *Na Préacáin* (composed mostly of non-singers), the *Maughans* led by a Mayoman, probably, who knew of a tribe of faction-fighters of that name.

And out of these teams, eight or nine maybe, of each code, come the "Erin's Hopes," who stand in every year so high in the Gaelic records of Dublin.

When Erin's Hopes, the student-teachers' team, score a goal you will hear a chant along their sideline of supporters—"Rhyzomes! Rhyzomes!" They don't mean anything derogatory—it's just an expression they picked up in the nature-study class in "Drum."

Parting—and Meeting.

Exercise of mind, exercise of body, the Gaelic tradition goes on and on in the colleges of our teachers. No less down south in De La Salle, Waterford, as in the Dublin college. And year by year, the young teachers go out, full of ambition, full of courage. But I have seen them cry like little children at the last parting. Yes, even though they have sung and pranked in the dormitory on the night before.

They are all on different trails—to the little parishes of Ireland. I have seen them ruefully "shaking hands" with the clasp of the iron gate as they leave that historic college. But I have seen them again, yes, in the Stadium itself, marching to the strains of music, in the colours of their counties.

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They Have Spent All Their Time Trying it Out With Galway

Only Other Connacht County Clinging to Camans

By

Neil Elphin

THE task, which has been imposed upon me, of writing a brief sketch of the life of the G.A.A. in Roscommon is so formidable that I am almost afraid to commence it. Because it is not by mere recourse to dry statistics that one can give a picture of all the colourful incidents that went to make the story of Gaelic Athletic revival in Roscommon. One would have needed (were life so long) to have lived step by step all the happenings that transpired since the dream of Cusack and Croke became a living reality in the county. But failing that one must fall back on the tales—now Roscommon traditional lore—of camán clash and parish contest which livened those almost dim days of 1886 and before.

Roscommon did not wait to see how the new Association would fare before co-operating with it. The G.A.A. was barely a year old when the young men of Elphin and Boyle and Strokestown and Roscommon itself were banded together in Gaelic teams.

They were more than nominal supporters of the Association too, for it is recorded in the G.A.A. Annals of 1888 that Roscommon was one of the eight counties which had paid their affiliation fees to the Central Council.

"Roscommon Herald's" Manager.

It is of interest to recall that at this period Roscommon's representative on the Central Council was Mr. Jasper Tully, M.P., proprietor of the *Roscommon Herald*, who was in Derry Jail at the time of his election, serving a sentence imposed by a coercion court. Happily Mr. Tully is still alive and giving as enthusiastic support as ever to the Gaels of the county. The County Convention also honoured Jasper Tully that year by electing him Co. President. G. W. Tully, of Boyle, was elected Secretary, and James Lindsay, Chairman, Boyle Town Commissioners, Treasurer.

These were the men who bore the sweat and burden of the day and laid the foundations of whatever success Roscommon achieved on Gaelic fields. Afterwards Mr. Frank Dorr, of Roscommon town, played a big part in G.A.A. work, and was first Secretary of the Connaught Council.

It was Mr. Dorr who moved the important resolution which introduced the ban on foreign games.

The resolution was as follows :—

That Rule 28 be amended as follows :—Any member of the Association who plays or encourages in any way Rugby or Association Football, Hockey, or any imported game which is calculated to injuriously affect our National Pastimes, be suspended from the Association; and that this resolution apply to all counties in Ireland and England.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and thus the ban came into force and has remained ever since. Other personalities who did pioneer work for the Association in Roscommon were Wm. H. Grogan, Castlerea; M. Kelly, Elphin; John Rabbit, Roscommon; and John Byrne, Boyle. The work of building up was carried on with vigour up to the beginning of the present century when a period of apathy began.

From 1901 until 1905 Roscommon ceased to participate in the Gaelic revival. It was a time when National and patriotic enthusiasm was very low in all parts of the country. However in 1905 there were again seventeen fully affiliated clubs in the county.

In that year Roscommon carried off the Senior Provincial Football Championship for the first time, a performance which they have repeated on two occasions since, in 1912 and 1915.

In 1929 Roscommon carried off the Junior Provincial title. But the honour which Roscommon men hold dearest of all was the hurling victory of 1906.

Unique Honour.

This is an unique honour for Roscommon, for it represents the only occasion when the Hurling Championship of Connaught did not rest with Galway.

Roscommon is the only county in Connaught, outside Galway, which has persevered with the National Pastime.

Since 1900 there have been numerous hurling clubs in the county, principally at Tisara, Athleague and Ballygar, as well as in Roscommon town. The first County Hurling Champions were Roscommon Gaels, who won their spurs first in 1902 and on four occasions since.

After Thirty Years.

The first football champions were the Elphin "O'Briens," who were victorious in 1901, and strangely enough never triumphed again until 1931. Hurling is again on the up grade in Roscommon, and Senior, Junior and Minor Competitions are being carried on for the past number of years. It is a healthy sign and augurs well for the future of the Association in the West. Galway will not long hold the hurling honours of Connaught when the young camán-men of Roscommon come forward.

Cluiṫċí na Gaeḋeal sa tSeanraċt

Ḃí baint idir na Gaeḋil agus na Sean-Ġréige maidir le cluiṫċí

Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin M.A.

Ḃí Aontaiġe Móra i nÉirinn na céadta blian roiṁ Ċríost—Aonaċ Tailteann agus Aonaċ Carman agus Feis Teaṁraċ. Na cluiċí agus la lúiṫċleasa do cleaċtaí ar na h-aontaiġe sin, bí cosúlaċt mór idir iad agus Cluiċí Móra na seanĠréag. Siad na Gréagaiġ is na Gaeḋil an dá ċine ba ċúisge go raiḃ Aontaiġe Móra Náisiúnta mar sin aca, agus dob' féidir go bfuil níos mó tábaċt sa ċeangal agus sa ċosúlaċt san ná mar a léiriġeaḋ go dtí so.

Tá sár-cunntaisí i leitrioċt na Gréigise ar a gcluiċí siúd, agus níl againne ar ár gcuid féin aċ tuairisg beag bearnaċ. Ní ró-fuirist é an deifrioċt san do míniú. Aċ ní bíoḋ an oiread céadna tábaċta insa cluiċí agus insa lúiṫċleasa ar Aontaiġiḃ na nGaeḋeal. Cúrsaí rialúċáin, cúrsaí dliġe is gnóṫa is mó a bíoḋ ar siubal ann. Agus annsan arís, na seanċaiḋe agus na filí oifigiúla do sgríoḃ na cunntaisí orṫa i bfad 'na diaiḋ san, ní bíoḋ de dualgas orṫa aċ sgéal na ríċe agus na ndliċe agus na gnóṫaí polaitíoċta d'innsint. Níor ġáḋ dóiḃ cúrsaí na gcluiċí féin do ḃreacaḋ síos do luċt a gcómaimsire. Agus d'fan an dearmad san ag seanċaiḋe agus ag filí oifigiúla na hÉireann anuas go dtí an tseaċtú aois déag—agus ag "filí na ndaoine" féin 'na diaiḋ san. Creidim go bfuil cuid de'n míniúċán sa dá níḋ sin.

Cluiṫċí Míleata.

Ar nós na Gréige do bain na cluiċí le gleacaíoċt agus le cleaċtaḋ an traiġdiúra. Ciné óg míleata ab' eaḋ na Gaeḋil, agus na cleasa do bíoḋ aca bíodar cruaiḋ fearúil borb. Bíoḋ rit agus léim agus cur-cloċ aca. Bíoḋ ráiseanna capall go rompáḋaċ aca, agus ráiseanna carbaḋ. Agus diubraċaḋ na gcraoiseaċ is na n-arm faobair, agus teilgean urċar le tailm agus le crannṫabaill. Agus mara raiḃ dornáil aca, dálta na nGréagaċ, is cinnte go ndeinidís na babtaí móra iomrasgála. Agus do bíoḋ na sluaiġte móra meiḋreaċa ag féaċaint orṫa, agus ceoltóirí is mangairí agus fir ṁéaraċán ag déanaṁ ábaċta dos na táinte ar an maċaire mórṫimpal.

Nílimid cruinn ar cad iad na duaiseanna a ḃí le fáil ag an t-é do beireaḋ an buaḋ. Craoḃ nó cupaḋ-mis, b'féidir. Aċ ní raiḃ duais ba ġile le croiḋe an ġleacaiḋe—agus is fíor fós é—ná molaḋ agus móraḋ agus gárṫa fear nÉireann ar an láṫair sin, agus cáil i measg a muinntire féin ar an mbaile dúċċais 'na diaiḋ san. "Buaine blaḋ ná saoġal" adeireaḋ an seanfocal agus ní raiḃ ciné riaṁ ba mó do ṁianaiġ clú oiniġ ná na Gaeḋil. "Beag a ḃríġ liomsa sin," ar Cúċulainn, "cé ná mairfinn aċ aonlá nó aonoiḋċe, aċ go mairfeaḋ m'áirsgeula dom' éis."

An Bainríoġan—Táilte.

Teaċt na bFuireann.

Maidir le cluiċí "fuireannaċa," ní áirmiġtear aċ ceann amáin, agus ní ró-ċruinn an cunntas a tugtar dúinn air. Pé mar tuigimíd-ne an téarma, níor ċluiċe fuireannaċ le ceart é. Ní tagann le leanbaí óga cluiċí de'n tsórd san d'imirt, agus 'sé an údálta ag an gciné óg é. Níor fásadar an cluiċí sin i n-aon tír go dtí gur snaḋmaḋ dlúṫ-ċorpeaḋ agus dlúṫ-ċomar idir na daoiniḃ agus go raiḃ taiṫiġe fada déanta aca ar beiṫ "ag imirt ar láṁaiḃ a ċéile."

Golf !

An t-aon geárraċunntas amáin atá le fáil againn ar an gcluiċe úd, tá sé i sgéal Ċúċulainn. Bí sé idir a beiṫ na ċluiċe aonair agus na ċluiċe fuireannaċ. Tugtaí 'iomáin' air, rud a cialluiġeann 'tiomáint.' Tugtaí 'án puill' air, leis, sé sin 'ag tiomáint ċun an puill,' rud a ċuir daoine áiriṫe á ráḋ gur ċluiċe éigin cosúil le Golf do bí ann. Aċ ní foláir nó is ag magaḋ a bíodar.

Trí ċaogaid de Maċraiḋ na hEaṁna ar an bfaiċċe réar-ġlas. 'Camonáin' nó 'luirg' aca, agus liaṫróidí, agus iad ag tiomáint i dtreo puill. Golf go cinnte, adeirir! Fan. Cuimniġ ar trí ċaogaid ar faiċċe amáin. Cuimniġ ná luaiḋtear iomadúlaċt poll—gur dóiċiġe ó'n gcunntas ná raiḃ ann aċ poll nó dá poll, ceann ar gaċ taoḃ. Cuimniġ go mbíoḋ duine, nó dream díoḃ ag cosg an duine nó an dreama eile, agus ag cosaint an puill, nó na bpoll. Cuimniġ go ndeintí babtaí iomrasgála, agus go ngortuiġtí daoine leis-sin, agus le buillí sgrios ó'n gcamán! Tá tagairt in "Argain Dinn Ríoġ" do duine do bí balḃ ó'n lá a rugaḋ é, slán mar a n-innstear é, go bfuair sé clabta de ċamán tresna na lurgan lá amáin, agus gur labair sé go h-obann! Agus tá cursíos insna dliġe ar an éiric a bíoḋ ag dul do'n té a gortuiġtí ar faiċċe na hiomána.

Scéal ar an gCoin.

Eist nóimeat eile le gaisce Ċúċulainn. Léim sé i measg na ngarsún agus beartaiġ sé a "ċamán créuma." Buail sé an liaṫróid roimis amaċ, agus 'san aer anáirde, agus greamaiġ sé idir a dá ċois í, agus rug sé leis mar sin í, agus do gluais roimis de ruaċar ró-sanntaċ tré ċeartlár an tsluaiġ, gur ċuir sé an liaṫróid sa poll i n-ainndeoin na dtrí caogad garsún! Agus annsan d'iompaiġ sé agus ċug sé a dúbláin fúṫa a liaṫróidí san a ċur sa poll, agus d'éiriġ leis é cosaint 'na gcoinniḃ san. B'aisteaċ mar ċluiċe Golf é siúd, muis!

HANDBALL—GREATEST GAME OF ALL

says Jimmie McGrath, champion of fifty years ago

"YOU knew where to come when you came to Carlow for news about handball," said James McGrath, a famous player of fifty years ago, when our special representative interviewed him. "I am proud of my old town, and have many happy memories of great players and great games in my heyday. Carlow has been the cradle of some of the greatest players that the game has seen, and without casting reflections on other parts of the country, and their records in the ball-alleys, I think that, taken all round, the Carlow lads have been as good as the best that Ireland has produced.

"The game flourished here more than a hundred years ago, and God knows how long before that. Every suitable wall and gable used to be the scenes of hard-fought, skilful games. The traffic regulations now-a-days have driven the young fellows away from playing on the streets and roads—where most of them made their first acquaintance with the game—and more's the pity. Poor chaps, and unemployed men, cannot always afford to pay for a game in the only court we now possess—and they must make a start somewhere.

"'Doyle's Alley,' in Tullow Street, built by Tom Doyle—'The Gauger'—whose son, a famous player, challenged the world, and could not get anyone to play him, was the training-centre of nearly all the famous Carlow players.

"Down to a few years ago it was extensively used. I remember the time you would have to be a fighting man to get a game there so numerous and so keen were the players. During the last ten years it has gone to rack and ruin and is now used as a cattle-pen. Players are not so numerous, or so good, and the Racquet Court Alley attracts them all. 'Doyle's Alley' had the disadvantages of being on the small side, and was roofless as well, but I would like to see it restored and used, if only for historical reasons.

Handball Demands Special Qualities.

"A handball player must be quick on his feet, and have great powers of endurance. Unlike the players of other games he is always moving, almost at top speed, and in big rubbers he may have to play for two or three hours.

He must have loose shoulder muscles, a graceful 'follow-through" swinging in his arms, a quick eye, and an alert brain.

"Quick thinking is an indispensable part of good handball. Above all, the handballer must be a good strategist, and must quickly learn to see and exploit the weakness of his opponent. Style is important, too, and that is for the player himself to develop.

"The 'timing' of the ball is very important if strength and speed are to be got into one's strokes.

"The player who cannot use both hands equally well will never reach the first-class standard. The hands need special care in many cases, and good hard work is one of the best things to make them hard enough to withstand the soreness and swelling that comes from playing with the hard ball.

"I have rarely known a big man to be an outstanding handballer; the middle and light weights are usually the best suited to the game.

The Good Old Times.

"Long before the G.A.A. came into being there were great games—mostly challenges and for side-bets—played here, and all over the country. There were famous players in Dublin, Meath, Leix, Kildare, Wexford, Limerick, Kerry, Cork and Waterford. The famous Phil Casey—who was unbeatable—came from Mountrath. He went to the United States, where he built a great handball court, and gathered round him many of the great players from all parts of Ireland.

"Jim Corbett, the great Irish boxer who became World's Champion, used often play in Casey's Court, and it is on record that he said there was no game in the world equal to handball as part of a boxer's training.

"It was Casey, too, who introduced tossing the ball from the short line. Before that the player who was in possession tossed the ball while standing up close to the front wall, and I can tell you that it was pretty hard to return many of the balls the good strong players delivered, because, they made them play all kinds of tricks around the walls, and in the corners at the back wall.

"I saw Patsy Nolan, of Carlow, strike an 'alley-cracker' so hard in 'Doyle's Alley' one day that in its rebound it went over the houses at the back of the alley into the street—a distance of nearly one hundred yards.

"On another occasion I knew him to split the cover of one with a hard return from his opponent's 'toss-out.' In those days a game consisted of fifteen aces only, not twenty-one as to-day, and scoring then was often a long and warm business, so high was the standard of the play of even those whose names were never known outside the town. There used to be a lot of trouble in my early days about the balls used in matches. There was no standard weight for them, and no standard size, and when your opponent's hand was 'in' he used his own ball, and when your hand was 'in' you played with your own ball. Everyone who has played any kind of a ball game knows that a change of balls can make the greatest of differences to a player and the game. In those days one would be in clover when playing with his own ball, and

when your hand changed you would find yourself trying to play with a 'yoke' as big as a cricket ball, heavy as lead, and as slow as a cart-horse.

This changing of balls led to a lot of trouble and spoiled many a game, and everyone was glad when an 'alley-cracker' of standard size and weight was agreed on.

"And talking about balls! In my days a man was not regarded as a handballer at all unless he could play, and play well, with the hard ball. The soft one is alright for beginners, but when they learn the game they should switch on to the hard one. After, all, rubber balls are not so very many years in existence and it is certain that a game so old as handball must have been played exclusively with hard balls before rubber was ever used.

"Some say that the Milesians brought the game with them to Ireland when they came from the sunny land of Spain.

"I was always better at handball than history, but I do know that a game similar to handball is still played in parts of Spain, and in the Basque country. I once played a game of handball against a Spaniard here in Ireland. He wanted to play with a short racquet—a wooden thing that was half racquet and half a bat—but eventually we played with an 'alley-cracker' and bare hands. The Spaniard was a fine player. By the way, Mickey Nolan, of Carlow, and myself were responsible for one reform in handball. The base-board was formerly eighteen inches high, and we had it reduced to six inches. That change was first tried out in Carlow, and soon was generally adopted.

Gárda Perry, Champion Handballer.

A Grand Cavalcade.

"I could tell you enough to fill a book about the great players I have known, and the great games I have seen, as well as the games I took part in myself. As I said before, Carlow was never without a top-notcher; there has been a succession—a grand cavalcade—of players in Carlow. There was Clery who beat Jack Lawler of Dublin (who died a few years ago) before Lawler went to the States to play Casey for the World's Championship and £400, which Casey won. Then we had Doyle, Hopkins, Fenelon, Burgess, Moore, Pat and Mickey Nolan—now in Dublin—Halligan, Martin, Rourke, the Bradys, The McDarbys, the Ronans, Gough, Hayden, Hanlon, Kavanagh, and in later days, Coyne, Doogue, Murphy, and Whelan.

Young Purcell, who plays in Dublin is a Carlow man, and can hold his own with the best, and Charlie Ryan of the Metropolitan Gárda is also a Carlow-born player.

"John Moore was the best two-handed player in Ireland. Dublin has never been without players like Jack Lawler, the Devoys, and Lyons; nor Wexford without a Furlong, a Hayes, or a Farrell. Kilkenny had dandy players in Dowling, Minton, and Brennan; Waterford, the McNearys; Kildare, Delaney and the Dunnes, who went to America, and in later times, Robinson. The famous Phil Casey I have mentioned as coming from Leix. It is impossible to remember them all, but other names that occur are Dr. Brownie of Kanturk, Father Jones of Tralee, Bell of Kells, and J. J. Bowles of Limerick, who in comparatively recent times defeated our Paddy Coyne in the Irish Championship before going down before Kelly in the World's Championship.

"I am sure there are as good players to be found to-day as at any time, but the absence of big challenge matches, and probably the discouragement of wagering is preventing their coming into prominence.

"There is a lot to be said for and against playing for purses and side-bets; but my idea is that if they encourage and promote games, no great harm is done.

"Some of the great games I saw were Cleary, Carlow, versus Lawlor, Dublin; John Moore, Carlow versus Dr. Brownie at Dun Laoghaire; Mickey Nolan, Carlow, versus Fitzgerald of Tralee; and in later times, the games between Coyne, Lyons, and Bowles. I played in many games, some of the most notable being when Mickey Nolan and myself opposed Phil Casey and Dunne, of America, and again against Jack Lawlor and Devoy of Dublin. Mickey Nolan and myself played more games together than I can remember.

Yesterday—To-day—To-morrow.

"I have been talking almost entirely about the hard-ball game; not that I despise the soft-ball one, but because I believe that the soft-ball game should naturally lead on to the other. Although I have not played for many years, I still take an active interest in the game.

"Why don't the newspapers give us a description of the games played instead of merely publishing results? I think that if handball matches got a better Press it would help a great deal.

"The efforts being made by the G.A.A. to encourage the game all over the country are worthy ones, and if the all-round standard of play has fallen during the last ten years, it will rise in the next, if we have more players and competitions.

"Every player's ambition should be to advance from the soft-ball to the hard-ball game; and if in the future the game is more widely played throughout Ireland, it will not matter so much whether a few brilliant "stars" are produced here and there as that the number of players is increased and the all-round standard improved. Already there are signs of a great revival here. We had a Town Cup competition here recently, run on handicap lines, and one of my sons—Silvester—won it. I was as pleased as if I won it myself. He was also a member of the County Carlow Football team that won the 1933 Leinster Junior Championship. So you see that handball is dovetailed into the other Gaelic games, too."

"I have just heard that Mr. Frank Slater, the big bookie man, is presenting three cups for competition between the local handballers, and that will give the game another big push forward in Carlow.

"Generous sporting enterprise like that, in conjunction with the G.A.A. Handball people's help, and the efforts being made by the Civil Servants, Gardai, and other clubs should soon put handball in a strong position. Altogether the game has had a very successful half-century. If there has been a falling-off in activity here and there for a time, it has been counter-balanced by progress elsewhere, and a revival in the same old places in the years that follow.

POSTAL RATES

Postal Rates on Special G.A.A. Supplement and issue "Irish Press," April 14, 1934:—

SOUVENIR AND CURRENT ISSUE:
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EVEN IN TWENTY-ONE-ASIDE DAYS ARMAGH WAS READY FOR ALL-COMERS

MICHAEL CUSACK'S association with Violet Hill College, which is situated in the South East corner of Armagh, might well account for the fact that Armagh was one of the first, if not actually the first, Ulster county to affiliate with the Gaelic Athletic Association. We find in 1886 at least five clubs in existence, with a properly constituted County Board functioning, and it was in the same year that the Association received a great fillip on the formation of the famous *Armagh Harps*, for it was around the exploits of this club that much of the early history of the county centres.

The first competitive inter-county match was played in the summer of 1886 when Dundalk *Young Irelands* visited the Primatial City.

The following year saw many notable clubs spring into existence, so that the city club latterly found stalwart opposition in *Michael Dwyers, Keady, Culloville, Crossmaglen, Bessbrook* and *Lurgan*. The majority of these clubs were capable of fielding two and sometimes three teams on the same occasion, and practically every one had their hurling team in conjunction with the football team.

The first Chairman of the County Board was Charles O'Neill, Armagh, still hale and hearty and taking a lively interest in the progress of the Association, and proud that his grandson, Joseph Houlahan, is the present Armagh and Ulster goalkeeper. He had the added distinction of being the first President of the Ulster Council and a delegate to the Central Council. The late Fred Dineen and Larry O'Toole visited Armagh in 1887, and together with Mr. O'Neill journeyed to Belfast to plant the first seed of the Association. It was not, however, until 1889, following a second visit on the part of Mr. O'Neill, that Antrim's first club, the *Red Hands*, came into existence.

Fought with the Boers.

Armagh won their first Ulster Championship in 1890 and were later defeated in the semi-final at Clonturk Park by Midleton, Co. Cork. Although they had many thrilling encounters with other clubs, notably *Cavan Slashers*, they had to wait until 1903 before they again annexed the Ulster title. The names of those who figured in the 1890 semi-final against Midleton should be of interest to present-day Gaels. They were: Joseph Donnelly, James McGerrigan, Patrick Knipe, Hugh O'Neill, Thomas Allen, Patrick Molloy, Jack Mullan, James Degan, Jack Fitzpatrick, James Lennon, John Vallely, Henry Thomas, William Thomas, Ned Mallon, James Corr, Bernard Corr, William Slevin, Owen McKenna, John Mulholland, Hugh Carbery and Charles O'Neill.

Of the 21 players who took part only eight survive. Hugh Carbery fought in the Boer War with the Irish Brigade and was killed.

A fine monument erected in the cemetery adjoining the Cathedral, Armagh, keeps fresh the memory of one who lived and died a Gael. Jack Mullan, now dead, was a Wexford man, and one time member of the renowned *Blue and Whites* of that county. He was an athlete of note even outside Ireland, and had few equals in his day as a long distance runner. John Vallely, also deceased, was the father of the present J. Vallely, Armagh, and Ulster back. A son of McGerrigan's was also prominently identified with Armagh G.A.A. in the 'teens.

In the nineties it was not an unusual thing for Armagh clubs to play challenge matches with clubs as far removed as *The Isles of Sea*, Dublin, and Derry clubs. *Cavan Slashers, Belfast Red Hands, Donaghmoyne, Fontenoys, Blaney Faughs,* and clubs from Dundalk and Drogheda often visited the county, if not in championship matches, at least for challenge matches. Armagh *Tir-na-nOgs*, founded by the present Canon Dunne of Loughgall, often figured in these inter-county tournaments.

Armagh from the air. Protestant Cathedral on site of old St. Patrick's on left (where Brian Boru is buried).

Mr. Cotter, a Corkman resident in the county, was Chairman from 1905-7, and it was during this time that Mr. McKnight, Keady, was instrumental in securing the first trophy for competition, the McKillop Cup—the gift of a Glasgow Irishmen, then M.P. for South Armagh. For succeeding years it stimulated interest in football, and among the teams successful in having their names inscribed as winners are the *St. Killians*, Whitecross; Bessbrook *Geraldines, St. Moninnas,* Killeavey; *Rangers*, Crossmaglen, and Armagh *Young Irelands*. From 1910 to 1920 the Association had varying fortunes, but rarely did the affiliated clubs exceed a dozen. The championships centred round duels for the McKillop Cup and invariably went to Crossmaglen *Rangers* or *Young Irelands*, who came into existence when the *Harps* Club amalgamated with another Armagh club.

An All-Ireland.

For Gaels in Armagh as elsewhere 1920 to 1923 were difficult times, and at one period there was no County Board in existence. It was, however, resurrected late in 1923 by the present County Treasurer, G. Arthurs, and from 1924, when the internal organisation was re-adjusted, matters ran smoothly, and the growth of the Association was rapid. In 1927 Armagh brought the first All-Ireland Junior Championship to Ulster, when they overcame Dublin in the 1926 Final at Croke Park. The same year the county was divided in two Divisions, Mid and South, and three years later the Lurgan area, or that part of North Armagh in Dromore Diocese, reverted to the control of the County Association, after an unique existence as part of County Antrim and latterly as an independent unit directly under the control of the Provincial Council. They now form one of the most virile and active units in the county.

We Still Rank High.

The game of hurling, which was apparently in a healthy condition at the beginning of the century, gradually lost ground and was almost extinct for a period of 20 years. Recent years brought more or less spasmodic efforts at revival, but without any great measure of success. His Eminence Cardinal MacRory interested himself in the revival efforts and presented a beautiful cup in 1932.

The loyalty and tenacity with which the Gaels of Armagh have clung to the parent body, and the unbroken continuity of their adherence, is proof sufficient that our early pioneers understood rightly their programme.

In this, the Jubilee Year, when we recall their labours with feelings of gratitude, we know that those of them who are still with us share our pride in the fact that Armagh to-day ranks high amongst the most highly-organised counties in Ireland.

AN ENGLISH KING WHO LIKED HURLING

And some who did not

HURLING seems to have been the game of the Celt through all the wanderings of that regal, reckless race. Long before the coming of Christ, they swept like a flame across Europe. "They conquered," history says of them, "but they could not, or would not, keep what they conquered."

So we find the remnants of them scattered yet, even in the wild mountainy places of Europe. And strange to say, in Cornwall, of England, as well as in Brittany, of France, their Celtic descendants know the feel of the camán.

In a little town near Newquay they still play the hurling game—play it on the roads on special feast days, and no traffic policeman dare stop them, but must indeed divert the cars of the curious from the hurlers' way.

Distance and fate, however, have lost to our Cornwall relatives the benefit of Gaelic tenacity, which has brought Irish hurling to so fine an art. For, indeed, their playing grounds are the public highway, and their goal-mouths are marked by milestones—or by some well-known marks by the sides of the fences or hedges. Their *liathroid*, too, is different. Cased in silver it is, not like our own *sliodar*, and their camáns have deteriorated into a close resemblace to the Saxon (?) hockey sticks.

Nevertheless, it is recorded that in the reign of the third William of England, more than two hundred years ago, a team of doughty Wexford men went over to try the mettle of the men of Cornwall.

And the walls of Tintern Abbey flung back the cries of Gael and "Gall" to the delighted ears of William and his queen.

The organiser of the game was peculiarly enough an English knight, Sir Caesar Colclough.

He had boasted to his King that he could pick a better team from Ireland than William's. And he did! For the Wexford men, but after a strenuous struggle, routed the monarch's favourites. Alas, our Wexford men had had better not to play that game. For to please the vain Orange William, they perforce must wear across their homespun jersies the yellow sash. The Wexford lads were Orangemen for the day. Call the people of Loch Garman "yellow sashes" to-day—and escape!

However, in the after years they played a different and more desperate game with the men of England. There were the Cromwellians at Ross and the West Britons at Vinegar Hill. . . .

But at least they have shown the great ones of England how tender a thing is consistency, for not long ago the King's Writ ran red in the headquarters of the Blue and Whites and the royal writer did not seem partial to hurling.

G.A.A. FINALS

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See Page 93

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GREAT FOOTBALL COUNTY THAT NEVER FIELDED HURLERS

Have they recovered from Kerry's gruelling defeat?

By

Liam O'Carroll

MUCH water has passed under the bridges, and many men have come and gone, since that meeting in Carrickmacross forty-seven years ago, at which the first Co. Committee of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Monaghan was formed.

And if Monaghan prestige in the realm of Gaelic athletics stands high to-day, all honour and credit is due to those sturdy pioneers who met in the little hotel in Carrick's main street on December 27, 1887.

The names of those responsible for convening that meeting—the results of which were seen in after years when Monaghan's football colours dominated many a hard fought field—are: Rev. Wm. McKenna, Carrickmacross; Rev. J. McCarney, Donoghmoyne; P. Lee, Carrickmacross, and O. Cahill, do. It was the foresight of these Monaghan Gaels, who visualised the possibilities for national regeneration in the banding together athletically of the young men of Ireland, that made their county such a force in the early days of the Association.

First Co. Committee.

No other Ulster county had progressed as far as a Co. Committee at this stage. Clubs were immediately established and competitions arranged. The famous clubs of those days, "Inniskeen Grattans," "Donoghmoyne Fontenoys," "Castleblayney Faughs," and "Emmets" from Carrickmacross, played some gruelling games, in which 21 a side was the common custom. "Inniskeen Grattans" were the first champions, and held the title from 1887 until 1905, when the Donoghmoyne "Foutenoys" succeeded in wresting it from them.

I have omitted to mention so far that the Association in Monaghan confined itself solely to football.

It is a remarkable fact that never did hurling in the modern sense get a foothold in the county, and Monaghan has never yet fielded a hurling side.

The explanation lies, perhaps, in the large "planter" population of Monaghan, which, in the past, dominated the entire life of the people and who regarded the national pastime as something a shade too "rebelly." Hence it was that the hurling tradition was lost and football had a monopoly. Monaghan continued to figure in the affairs of the G.A.A. and in 1888 we find that a countyman, Rev. James McCarney, C.C., was a member of the Central Council and took a prominent part in the work of reconstructing the Association following the wrangles and splits of 1887.

It was in 1888 that Monaghan's footballers first competed in the Inter-County arena, when Inniskeen as county champions were pitted against the Cavan Maghera Mac Finns, afterwards the famous Cavan Slashers. The game was played on a boiling hot day in June and the venue was Drogheda. Large crowds had made the journey from both competing counties and much excitement prevailed. The excitement grew as it was soon seen that the balance was too even for victory on either side. The defence of both teams was impenetrable and when the final whistle went, two points had been scored at each end.

Thus Monaghan began with Cavan that fierce rivalry which is as keen to-day as it was on that memorable day on the Boyne-side City, over forty years ago.

It was a pity that the 1888 championships were not proceeded with, for many Monaghan Gaels had looked forward to seeing the first match brought to a definite result. Monaghan withdrew its allegiance to the governing body in 1889 and had no further official connection with it until 1896.

However, during this period an Inniskeen man, T. E. Wood, brought fame and glory to the county by his superb performance at the G.A.A. sports meeting in Clonmel in 1895. Wood won the hammer throw, the running long jump (19ft. 9ins.), the high jump (5ft. 10ins.), the hurdles (16½secs.), the running hop, step and jump (47ft. 7ins.), the 440 yards (55 1-5 secs.), and the hundred yards (10 4-5secs.). He was declared all-round champion after this amazing performance.

Although Monaghan came back to the Gaelic fold in '96, very little progress was made in football skill for a number of years. Never once until 1907 did Monaghan secure the provincial title.

Indeed, at one period—about 1900—only one club (St. Patrick's, Currin) was affiliated with the Association.

When Mr. Patrick Whelan, of Newbliss, took over the reins of office as Chairman of the County Board, about 1904, events began to happen. The looseness of the organisation was eliminated and a thorough revival begun. Not only was football reorganised for the young men, but the girls were banded together in Camoguidheacht clubs in Latton, Castleblayney, Corleacht, and Clones. Another achievement of Mr. Whelan's was to secure from the railway companies proper travelling facilities for Gaels.

In March of 1908 Mr. Whelan, in his capacity of Chairman, Ulster Council, G.A.A., attended a sitting of the Irish Railways Commission and declared there were 20,000 Ulster Gaels to be catered for. To this fine Monaghan official the thanks of all the thousands of Gaelic supporters who travel to-day in comfort to matches in every part of the province are due. Monaghan's winning sequence began in 1907, when they first secured the Championship of Ulster. They repeated this performance in five season's since, as well as winning the Croke Cup provincial contest in 1908. Mr. Eoin O'Duffy became County Secretary in 1914, when the fortunes of the county were high as a result of a good season culminating in provincial supremacy.

The greatest Monaghan victory in recent times was the overthrow of Kildare in the 1930 All-Ireland Semi-final at Croke Park.

The jubilation of this victory was somewhat damped as a result of the catastrophic defeat at the hands of Kerry after a very disagreeable game, marred by rough play and accidents. The Monaghan players who carried the county colours to the National Stadium were: P. Kilroy (capt.), T. Bradley (goal), T. Shevlin, J. Farrell, P. Duffy, P. Heeran, J. Duffy, P. Lambe, W. Mason, M. McAleer, C. Fisher, J. O'Carroll, P. McCannon, J. Sexton, H. Brannigan. Sub., P. J. Duffy. In 1928 the Ulster team which met Leinster in the Railway Cup Final included seven Monaghan players in it as well as the captain.

A Bold Bid.

The county is well organised at the present, and over forty teams are affiliated. Much of the credit for this desirable state of affairs is due to the efficient County Secretary (Mr. M. Markey, of Carrickmacross), whose zeal and enthusiasm for the games of the Gael could scarcely be excelled. Cavan had better look to their laurels; the young Gaels of the neighbouring county are not satisfied to let the present champions hold sway for long. Monaghan will make a bold bid for Croke Park this year.

Lorcán O Tuathail Team, Dublin, 1901.

I Have Heard of Great Football Games

PHIL O'NEILL, G.A.A. Author Reviews Years

THE Jubilee Celebration of the founding of the G.A.A. and incidentally the regulation of native football by fixed rules, will give rise naturally to many a query relative to the antiquity and development of this popular pastime. The history of football in this country is undoubtedly enveloped in obscurity, but there is sufficient evidence to show that the game, in a primative fashion, was practised in Ireland hudreds of years ago. It is mentioned in old records that the game was popular in Ireland as far back as 1527.

Many edicts were passed against the playing of the game, notably in the reigns of Edward II and Edward III, and also in the reigns of the fourth and eighth Henry. Although a guild of football players existed in London during Elizabeth's reign, the game was forbidden, and offenders were frequently imprisoned. Owing to the influence of Puritanism, the game declined in the seventeenth century, but continued to be played in Ireland to some extent, particularly in the rural areas.

Football in the olden times differed very much from the game as we know it to-day. Then town was matched against town and village against village, and all the able-bodied inhabitants of the rival places usually took part in the contest. The goals were often miles apart, and generally consisted of outstanding objects such as a tower or a steeple or a bridge. The game, as might be expected, was of a very rough-and-ready nature with little science or skill in it, the ball being kicked or carried at will by the players, in their endeavours to lodge it in the desired goal.

In Dublin County, football was played extensively during the eighteenth century, and we have a precise account of a match played between Lusk and Swords in the year 1721. Mathew Concannon is the writer, and he gives us a good idea of the game at this period. "The goals," he states, "are formed by sticking two willow twigs in the ground at a small distance apart and twisting the tops so that they seem a gate."

Much like a present-day feis or turnament, before the game started there was a dancing competition for the colleens present. Then the master of ceremonies, after whom our present referee is modelled, takes the centre of the field and addresses the crowd. The teams, only six players aside, then take the field. The Swords players are decked in white with a red ribbon flowing from each cap. The Lusk men, led by a piper, also appear in white but have a distinguishing blue ribbon on their caps. I shall be pardoned if I quote Concannon as he describes the start of the game. The referee calls for order and addresses the players thus:—

"Ye champions of fair Lusk and ye of Swords,
View well this ball, the present of your lords,
To outward view, three folds of bullocks hide,
With leather thongs bound fast on every side,
A mass of finest hay concealed from sight,
Conspire at once to make it firm and light."

According to our author, the players seemed to have been more concerned with each other than the ball. There was no half-time but, on the other hand, the players got a short breath of space every time "the ball went past the goal" or "over the line" as we term it to-day. When the first goal was scored, the match ended there and then.

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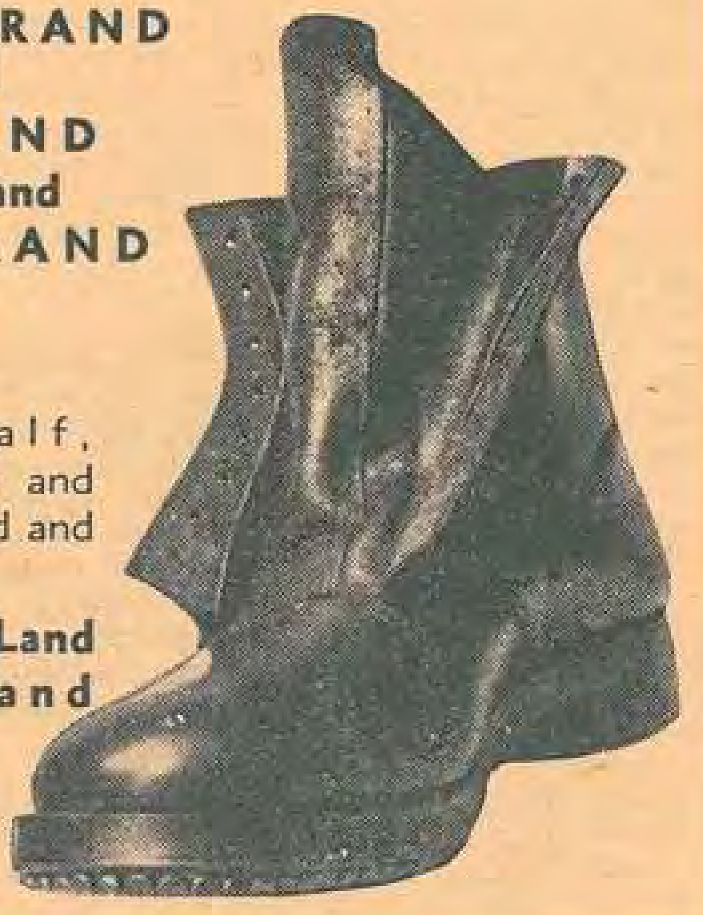

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G. A. A. FINALS

£420 IN PRIZES

See Page 93

WHY NOT LINK UP WITH SCOTLAND?

SHINTY—THE KIN-GAME OF HURLING.

By "Seumas"

Scotland's Aonach Tailteann Shinty Team, 1932.

THERE can be no closer kinship than the blood-bond of race and that is the long enduring tie that exists down through the ages between the game of hurling and the old-time Gaelic football of Scotland and Ireland. That racial blood-bond between the two countries recalls far-off days of the long-gone periods before centuries of religious and political differences succeeded so much in obscuring the truth so clearly indicated in language, tradition and history. A shinty match between Gaelic teams in the Scotch Highlands and a hurling match between Gaelic teams in Ireland cannot fail to bring before the mind, informed by tradition and history, very realistic pictures of our country's ancient greatness.

A Greater Ireland.

Days of the Dalriada's successful expedition, of Cairbre, son of Conary, the second king of Ireland in the latter part of the second century, when Scotland got the name it bears to-day. Ireland was not then the national unit it is in our time, but Ireland with her colonies, the Scotch Highlands and the Isle of Man. That is how hurling and football and so much of our Gaelic language, literature, customs and pastimes came to Scotland, just as its name came from Ireland, and

after more than sixteen hundred years it is still possible to hear fishermen from North of Scotland engage in conversations in the Gaelic tongue

with the native Irish-speaking fishermen from the Dungarvan side of the Waterford coastline. The many proofs of the once great prevalence of hurling in Cornwall, from which it spread so much into England, shows that the game is older than the time that saw the division of the Brythonic or Welsh Celts from the Goidelic or Irish families.

The old literature of Scotland like the old literature of Ireland has much mention of hurling. The hero in the story of the White Shield in the old tale of "The Knight of the Riddles," takes the wandering boy past the place where two teams of hurlers are engaged in a game, with the result that the youth joins in with rather unpleasant consequences to himself. Osgai, son of Oiscin, was, according to one of these old tales, peerless as a hurler, and when, as a boy at school, he played with his companions, the side on which he played was always victorious when the teams were of equal number.

"Auld Lang Syne."

Under the pen-name of "Finlay the Piper," the late Dr. McLeod, of Glasgow, in an interesting sketch of ancient customs and "Auld Lang Syne" gossip, written many years ago, describes a great hurling match played in a Highland parish as part of the New Year's Day celebrations when the hurling contests were followed by dancing and songs. Campbell's "Popular Tales of the West Highlands" are of great antiquity, and were passed down by tradition through several generations. These tales contain many references to Scotland's old-time hurling or shinty matches and convey a very convincing estimate of the popularity of the game and the high esteem in which it was held.

In the year 1697, camánacht and hurling were the chief diversion in most parts of Scotland and there were many great shinty teams among the inhabitants of St. Kilda and the Hebrides, and the nobles of Scotland always took a keen interest in patronising and organising matches between picked teams of expert players.

The ill-fated Patrick, Earl of Orkney, who was beheaded in 1615 for usurping royal authority, was one of the most enthusiastic promoters of hurling in his time, and when he paid a visit to the Earl of Southerland in 1604, hurling matches made up the greater part of the programme of sports and pastimes arranged for the entertainment of the distinguished visitor, who was a near kinsman of King James VI. The great hurling in the matches played for years at Strathglass between the Frazers, headed by Lord Lovat, their chief; and the Chisholms, under their chief, brought vast multitudes of spectators every year to these great exhibitions of skilled hurlers of strength, speed and endurance. The Frazers' team always fought out the issue with characteristic determination, even though they did not always win, but always came out of the contest with happier results than are connected with the same name in the memorable and sanguinary "battle of the bloody-shirt" between the Frazers of Lovat and the MacDonalds of Noidart, and which has been so well recorded by Mrs. Ogilvie in a stirring ballad poem.

One of the remarkable things about old hurling and football in Scotland was the age of some of the great players who took part in games of such vigour long after the years of youthful manhood as we reckon them had passed. Donald Bán, of Culleoden, was a sure "goal-getter" at the age of fifty years. Being expert in "forward play" he knew all the tactics of such players and was able to serve another successful ten years as goalkeeper. The real stamina of the Gael was in Donald Bán, and very much so in Provost Brown of Inveraray, who hurled on his eightieth birthday, and about the year 1795, when he was a century old, he led one of the contending teams in a big shinty match and carried the town colours at the head of the procession on to the field.

A Fanatical Oposition.

As in Ireland in pre-1916 days, hurling and Gaelic football played their part in efforts to break the Saxon's grip in Scotland.

The terrible upheaval of "the '45" upset the even tenor of the country's national life. The fight for the forlorn hope of the lost cause brought doom and disaster to many and gave a decisive set-back to the games, but Scotland well preserved the traditions and customs of the Gael. The years of the "religious" Reformation, combined as they were with an intensive campaign for the Anglicisation of Scotland, gave the traditional games and customs of the people a very decided reverse. The fact of the game being played generally on a Sunday brought it all the blindly fanatical enmity of the "Kirk reformers," who bitterly denounced it as "a devil's invention for desecrating the sawbeth." Dr. Norman MacLeod in his "Reminiscence of a Highland Parish" gives an instance of this unreasoning fanaticism in the following story: "A minister in a remote island parish once informed me that on religious grounds he had broken the only fiddle on the island!" Campbell writing of this general suppression of native manners and customs of the people by these zealous "reformers" states that the old song and tales were like the games put under the ban of the "reformers," as being too secular for the inhabitants, and asks "What next? Are the singing-birds to be shot by the Kirk-sessions?"

"Stands Scotland Where She Did?"

The intensive opposition to the traditional and historical continuity of Gaeldom and the successful Anglicisation of so much of Scotland made the continuity of the old games and customs very difficult, even though the country was never without men of intensely patriotic fervour to whom Wallace was more than a name, and his ideals more than a dream. Burns voiced such aspirations in his "Cotter's Saturday Night," "Scots Wha Hae," etc., etc.

But the Anglicisation has gone on, and England sees it as "North Britain," yet the voice of Gaelic tradition and history is not completely smothered, and in the further revival of Shinty and the other heritage of the ancient Gaels of Queen Scotia's land, that voice can again be made strongly articulate.

A Relinking.

What a few spirited men did for the revival and developing of Ireland's national games fifty years ago can be done for the revival of the games in Scotland by a few earnest men also. It is pleasing, too, to recall that the first public function which the newly-founded Gaelic Athletic Association publicly held under its auspices was the commemoration of the Burns Anniversary, held at the old Antient Concert Rooms, Dublin, on January 27th, 1885. This function was designed to bring the Gaels of Dublin and the Gaels of Scotland residing in Dublin into closer unity. The gathering was in every sense a success, and was presided over by that energetic worker for Gaelic revival, the Rev. Maxwell Close, M.R.I.A. Michael Cusack, founder of the G.A.A., who was chiefly responsible for the function, took a prominent part in the night's proceedings. His then close friend and brother-Gael from Scotia Minor, Mr. Morrison-Miller, who was always working for the closer unison of Scotch and Irish Gaels, and then a popular figure in Dublin's "Scotch Colony," was another prominent personality in the night's proceedings.

There was one incident of that night which, though scarcely perceptible even by very few of those present, had its after-effects in scaring away several loyal Scotch men from any further touch with the G.A.A.

The whole thing was sinister and worthy of the felon-setting brain that begot it. Chief-Detective-Officer John Mallon, Britain's most energetic sleuth-hound in Ireland, and as unscrupulous as his paymasters, hated the Gaelic Athletic Association as he hated everything of a virile Irish Nationalist nature that might arise to challenge the dominance of Britain's usurping rule.

"Fenian Conspiracy."

Mallon did not want any linking-up of Nationalist thought in Scotland and Ireland, and knowing the "loyal" composition of most of the Scotchmen in Dublin, he saw an opportunity in the Burns Commemoration of letting the "loyalists" see that the G.A.A. was "suspect" in the eyes of "British law and order," so he had his "G" men posted about the hall and took good care to have the fact whispered about places where Scotchmen lunched or lounged at luncheon next day.

The ruse served its purpose very well, but it did not detach many from their sympathy with the G.A.A., but, of course, the cautious ones had nothing further to do with what was pictured in whispers to them as a "thinly masked Fenian conspiracy."

There were afterwards some very successful fusions of Scotch and Irish Gaels in Dublin at several functions, and at the first great Caledonian Games held in Dublin, despite Mallon's sinister efforts. At home in Scotland the games of the Gael were becoming almost entirely forgotten in most places, while Britain's cricket and football games were in an increasing state of popularity, and these Scotchmen in Dublin could not do much to remedy the home situation, though they had seen Irishmen raise up a great national athletic organisation that had revived native sports and pastimes and democratised athletics in Ireland hitherto conducted on a class-cast basis excluding "the working-men and the games of the common people."

The First Real Move.

Great things were hoped for a revival of the games from a meeting held in the Royal Hotel, Edinburgh, in May, 1887, presided over by Professor Blackie, but beyond the holding of a Gaelic sports meeting in the city, none of the hopes were realised. The first real move on the part of Scotch Gaels to come into actual contact with the G.A.A. on the playing field was made in September, 1887. Cameron Henderson, who was then Secretary of the Scotch Shinty Association, wrote to Michael Cusack, stating that he was prepared to send a team of twenty-one hurlers to meet a team of Irish hurlers in an International Shinty match between Ireland and Scotland.

The announcement which appeared in the Press aroused great interest in the ranks of Irish hurlers. The Dublin Metropolitan Hurling Club, as champions, claimed the right of selection.

Some differences in the rules as between Irish hurling and Scotch shinty were adjusted, and also as to the size of the ball to be used. This occasioned some interchange of correspondence and delay, but eventually Scotch Gaels writing from the headquarters of the Shinty Association, Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow, agreed definitely to play the match at Dublin on Saturday, December 10th, 1887.

Expectancy was at high level in anticipation of an important new event in the career of the G.A.A., then three years old. An unforeseen cause led to the postponement of the match until Monday, January 2nd, 1888. The Scotch selection was:—A. McCallum (goal); T. Ferguson, A. Black, D. McInnes (backs); D. Campbell, J. Kennedy, M. McLean (half-backs); J. Robertson (centre), A. Campbell, A. Porter, J. McLachlan, C. Guthrie, W. Smith, T. McColl (captain). Subs:—D. Cameron, J. McKellar, C. MacDonald, A. McNab.

Dublin had a very formidable selection ready but the

(*Continued on Page* 62.)

"THAT WE CALL FOR UNITY—IN NINETY-EIGHT"

CLOSE LINK WITH NATIONAL HISTORY

By Micheal O'Neill

THE G.A.A. Annals of 1886 record that branches of the Association were formed "in Stewartstown and other parts of Tyrone." This may be correct as regards official affiliation but for many years before '86 the young men of Hy-Nial were proficient in the arts of "Ball playing, hurling, football-kicking, 'casting,' leaping in various ways, wrestling, handy grips, top pegging, leap-frog, rounders and tip-in-the-hat," all according to the traditional Irish way.

The famous Parish Hurling Contests in which hundreds participated in a sort of running game across the countryside are still recounted around the fireside of Mid-Tyrone by old men who first learned of them from their fathers.

In 1887 the organisation of the G.A.A. had so far progressed in Tyrone that delegates from Dungannon and Donaghmore were enabled to attend the historic Convention at Thurles at which objection to a Fenian being elected Chairman led to stormy scenes.

Tyrone's Debut.

In 1889 the second inter-County Championship competition was somewhat marred by the defection of a large number of counties who had grievances against the Central Council. However, it was in this season that the Tyrone County Colours were first seen on the football field when they were matched against Fermanagh at Enniskillen. In 1890, Tyrone again was entered for the All-Ireland Championship but did not survive the opening game.

At this period the fortunes of the Association had fallen low in Tyrone for the County's affiliation fees to the Central Council only amounted to 10/-.

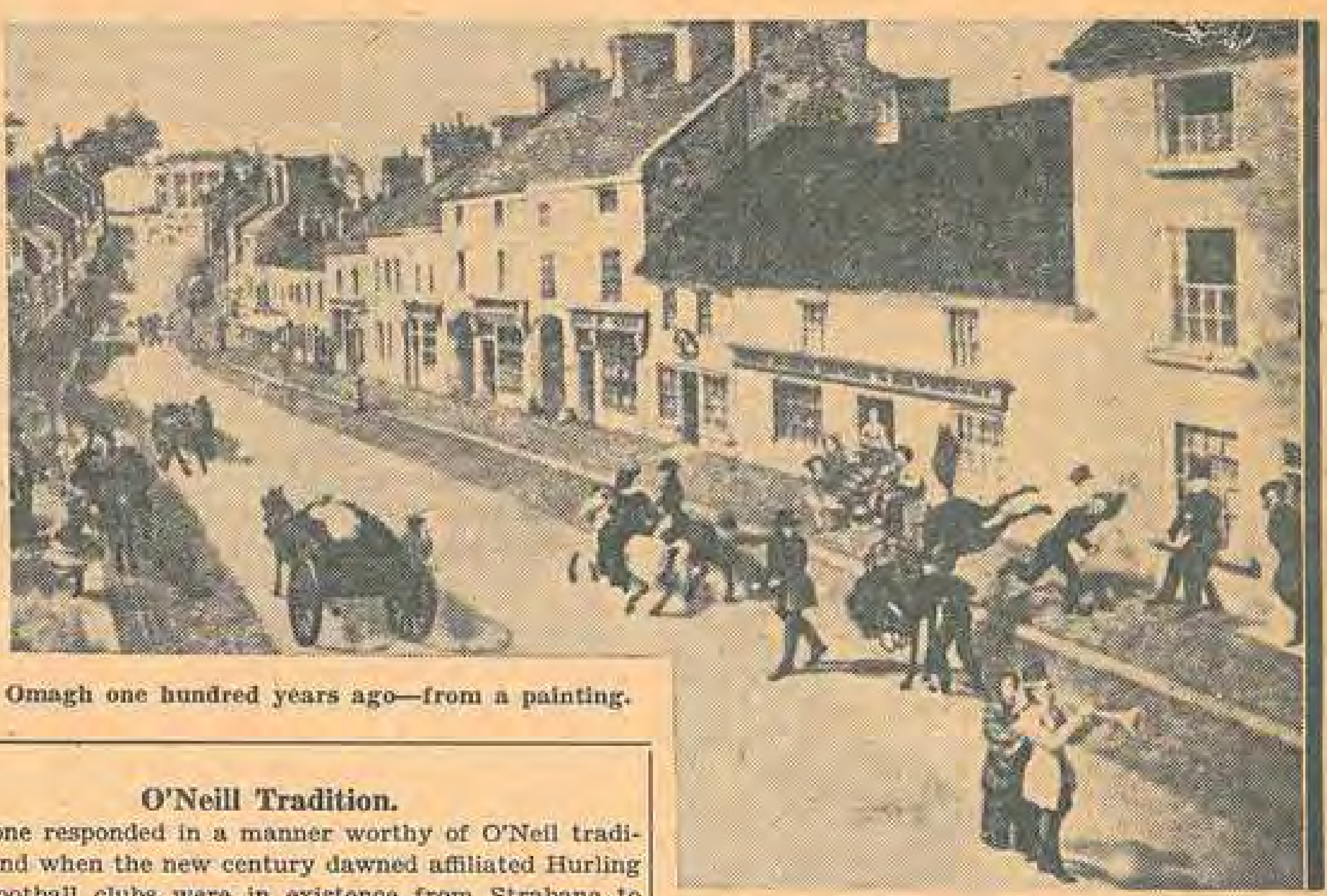
Parnell Split.

From 1891, for a number of years, Tyrone, in common with most of the other Ulster Counties, ceased all official connection with the G.A.A. on account of the differences occasioned by the Parnell split.

But even in those tragic years such clubs as "Strabane Faughs," "Cookstown Brian Oges," "Dungannon Craobh Ruaidh," and "Washingbay Shamrocks" had not broken up, and kept the games alive.

In 1898 a representative meeting of Gaels was held in Belfast at which the following resolution was adopted:—

> "That we call upon the old Gaels of Cavan, Armagh, Tyrone, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Antrim to sink their political differences and unite once more in friendship in this memorable year of '98 under the old Gaelic banner and revive a truly National spirit again in Ulster."



Omagh one hundred years ago—from a painting.

O'Neill Tradition.

Tyrone responded in a manner worthy of O'Neil traditions and when the new century dawned affiliated Hurling and Football clubs were in existence from Strabane to Cookstown and from Omagh to Dungannon. The prestige of the County increased considerably, and we find that at the Convention held in Armagh in March of 1903, at which the first Ulster Council was established,

Mr. M. V. Nolan, B.A., the well-known Strabane Gael, was elected Provincial Vice-President, and in the following year he was honoured by appointment to the office of President.

In Hurling, Strabane "Lamh Dergs" exercised supremacy and were first champions of Tyrone. Their only serious challengers came from distant Cookstown. The absence of sufficient hurling teams led to an abandonment of the pastime altogether.

In this connection it is of interest to note that the hurling tradition in Strabane has again proved its strength and to-day a team from that town competes in the Derry District hurling competitions.

It has always been a matter of wonder to Ulster Gaels that Tyrone has never yet secured a Senior or Junior Provincial championship. For the individual standard of play compares favourably with the best of the other counties.

And the Provincial team has never taken the field in recent years without one or more Tyrone players.

Harry Owens (who assisted Derry in recent years), Devlin and Higgins were amongst the finest players of Gaelic football in the Province. The fact that the Tyrone Co. team is nearly always widely drawn from the whole county and not from any one area raises difficulties of training, team spirit, etc., which militates against more cohesive teams. However, the recent victory of Tyrone minors is perhaps a happy augury for the future.

Within the past two years a most intensive scheme of re-organisation has been carried out in Tyrone with the result that four district Boards representing North, South, East and West Tyrone are promoting, in the most successful manner, the Association of the Gael. In this work Mr. B. C. Fay, Ulster Secretary; Mr. Tobin, P.E.T., Stewartstown; Rev. Fr. Bradley, C.C., Newtownstewart, and Mr. M. Cooney, Stewartstown, played the leading parts.

Every device has been tried by the "loyalists" to prevent the development of Gaelic games. It is recorded that the Soccer Council in Belfast gave bribes of money grants to groups of people in various parts of the county for the promotion of their game.

But Tyrone Gaels are hard to down.

The spirit of the great Hugh still stalks the streets of Dungannon and echoes of Benburb come wafted down the years.

The hardest part of the fight seems over now but it was the dogged fighters of twenty and thirty years ago who cleared the way for the present easy advance. That is why the young men of Tyrone should treasure their games, whose recognition was so hardly won.

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Save the Forges!

The Blacksmiths Hold the Great Traditions of the Bowling Game.

By
Highroad

AT home and abroad, the men of Ireland have always been noted for, and prominent in, games that demand a combination of strength, skill, and stamina. The performances of the men of our own race in the boxing and wrestling arenas, in weight-throwing and weight-lifting are there for all the world to see. In the handling of weighty and bulky merchandise the Irish longshoremen of Liverpool, London, and New York excel all others, since the handling of weights demands strength as well as skill. Sons of the soil and the smithies, accustomed to heavy work from their earliest years, it is not surprising that their superabundant energies are compelled to find an outlet in pastimes that the softer peoples of other races would call "hard labour." Bowling—or "Bullet-throwing" as it is called in many parts of Ireland—may be classified as a game demanding strength and skill, and it is a matter for regret that it is not more generally played nowadays.

Before the G.A.A. Came.

Social, local history, and tradition tell us that in the days before the Gaelic Athletic Association was organised that Bowling was a very popular game, more especially in the South of Ireland; **that it was prohibited by law as a danger to the road-using public,** and that when a game was in progress scouts were posted at all vantage-points to warn the players of the approach of the "Peelers." The thrills of circumventing the police added charm and adventure to the games; the whole countryside co-operated in anything that would defeat the plans of the "limbs of the law," with the result that captures were few and prosecutions rare in proportion to the number of games played. Like the wary and tongue-tied cockfighters, their ruses were almost always successful. In passing, it may be added that in the early days of the G.A.A. it was quite a usual thing for the English authorities **to draft large forces of police into the towns and villages when games were played "to preserve the "public peace,"** but the real purpose of such beneficent supervision was to endeavour to prove that the wild Irish were so lawless, savage, and uncivilised that it was necessary to protect them from themselves when they assembled to amuse themselves.

Bowling "degenerates" to weight-throwing.—Dr. O'Callaghan.

From Town to Town.

The roads were the "Bullet-throwers'" bowling greens, and it was not an unusual thing for teams to bowl from one town to another, where a rest would be made for refreshments, and then the game would be continued back to the starting-point.

Distances covered were frequently fifteen to twenty miles, occupying a playing and walking period of nine or ten hours.

Many stories are told of the strength and dexterity of the players. The great distances covered by some of the great players with their "shots" are proverbial. The skill with which they negotiated corners—often obstructed by trees—is still spoken of with pride by old men as they sit in their chimney-corners on winters' nights. The pace of the ball—which when in motion gave it the appropriate title of "bullet"—is something over which our old men gloat, and challenge our young one to emulate. And they talk with pride about the manner Paddy-So-and-So **could put bias—or "screw"—on the "bullet" so that it went around bends on the roads to attain a maximum distance.**

Recently I heard an old man, who passed the four-score mark years ago and is still hale and hearty, say that he wished he was young enough to play the game again. "Man alive," said he, "with the trees and bushes cut off the bends of the roads, and the tarmac surfaces I would throw a "bullet" as far as Fionn Mac Cumhail drove the goolden ball if I was as young as I was forty year ago." I agreed that he would get in a good throw, but that beating Fionn's record was another matter. His retort was that you never know what you can do until you try, concluding philosophically with the comment that the only things that flourish in Ireland are the things we are forbidden to do, and the things that lazy people say cannot be done. I believe, and hope, this grand old gentleman will live to be a hundred at least. He was one of Ireland's strong men in his generation.

To the Fields.

It is a pity that the phenomenal growth of the G.A.A. did not also witness a similar advance in bowling. Social changes, the introduction of bicycles, and other means of transport, which have tended to make people, who, fifty years ago, thought nothing of walking fifteen or twenty miles to work, have made us less leg-efficient until now the cult of walking has been lost to such an extent that, even in our small towns, hiking clubs are endeavouring to popularise it. The attraction of field games, fought out on a limited battle-arena have, undoubtedly, done much to clear the roads of Bowling-men. Added to this Bowling contests were, and are, usually played for side-bets, and since the G.A.A. prohibits commercialism in its games, a great deal of the interest and enthusiasm that Bowling aroused have departed, and the game has declined in consequence. It would be a great pity to allow the game to die out.

It is still very popular throughout the County Cork and in other counties in the South and West, and the bigger games are often played as challenges. It seems apportune now, when the G.A.A. is entering upon its second half-century, that a new code of rules were drawn up for its control, and that it was transferred off the roads, for the increasing traffic on our highways is rendering them unsuitable for the game.

If it could be transformed into a field event its future would be assured.

"Putting the Shot" is the field event that most closely resembles it, and it should not be impossible to reorganise Bowling to make it an attractive item at our sports' meetings.

Save the Forges!

Our blacksmith have at all times played a gallant part in our national life and national games, and it is a regrettable social and economic phenomenon to see the forges where their anvils rang so merrily, and their wit and humour flowed so freely, disappearing while ugly garages and petrol stations appear in their stead.

The smiths were big men in the Bowling game; they made and moulded the "bullets" with infinite care, and their brawny arms sent them humming and droning through the air and along the highways. At other times

they made the pikes and repaired the guns of our fighting men. Their trade and names will always be associated with Bowling. May it be for many a day!

Reference has been made in the beginning of this article to the attempts made by the British Police to suppress Bowling. It is, therefore, not amiss to conclude with a reference to the successful attempt made in more recent years by a party of "Bowlers" to suppress their allies—the British forces. During the War of Independence, British troops were wont to travel round the country in cycle patrols with their rifles fixed on their bicycles. One Sunday, in the East Cork Brigade area, a party of "Bowlers" dressed in their shirt sleeves stood innocently at either side of the road to allow the military-cyclists to pass. At a pre-arranged signal the "Bowlers" **sprang to life, pounced like tigers on the British and captured and disarmed them** without firing a shot in less time than it takes to describe it. It was a cleverly-planned coup, brilliantly executed, which will associate Bowling with a certain wee village in East Cork long after the men who played the game will have passed away.

Camogie Congress Resolution, 1933

Resolved:

"That at this Camoguidheacht Congress, mindful of the ideals and aspirations which inspired the founders of our Association thirty years ago, we place on record our appreciation of the great National work achieved by the Gaelic Athletic Association, and that we avail of this opportunity to felicitate the officials and members of the G.A.A. in their celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Association's foundation. The Gaelic Athletic Association, in setting out to place Irish games and National athletics on an organised basis, had to meet and conquer many difficulties, but the inherent Gaelicism in the movement alone has made for its outstanding triumphs in this, the fiftieth year of its establishment, and we in Camoguidheacht Association, fighting for many years against prejudice and opposition, are beginning to reap, too, the fruits which the nationally-inspired pioneers envisioned. We trust that the Jubilee Year of the Gaelic Athletic Association will be marked with further progressive achievements, in the strengthening and consolidating of the Irish-Ireland movement generally throughout the whole country, North, South, East and West, and, on behalf of the members of the Camoguidheacht Association, we pledge to work with renewed zeal and effort towards that end."

Passed unanimously.

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DOWN'S HOPES ARE IN ITS YOUNGSTERS

Thirty years with only ten clubs— now—

Down's team of Ulster Minor Champions, 1932.

THE Gaelic Athletic Association in Down is rapidly developing. Ten years ago there were only about ten or twelve clubs affiliated with the County Committee (although there were numbers of G.A.A. teams scattered here and there); to-day over forty clubs are affiliated. Every year shows an increase in the number of clubs seeking admission to the G.A.A., and only a few years ago one large portion of the county registered more than a dozen clubs, who had hitherto followed another code of athletics.

Our Three Divisions.

The Gaelic Athletic Association in Down is worked on a very simple plan. First we have the governing body—the Co. Committee—elected as in all other counties, annually by the clubs. The county is then divided into three divisions for Football purposes, viz.—South Down and Mourne Division, Castlewellan and District Division, and Downpatrick and District Division. Each of these Divisions elect annually two representatives to the Co. Committee, who together with two delegates from the Hurling Committee and the officers elected at the Annual Convention constitute the Co. Committee. The Co. Committee are empowered to co-opt members throughout the year, provided that persons so co-opted are undoubted and useful supporters of the G.A.A.; but co-options are limited to two from any one Division.

It will thus be seen that there is constant contact between the Divisional Committees and the County Committee.

For smoother working, the Divisional Committees are given full powers over all G.A.A affairs in their respective areas, that would in their absence be controlled by the County Committee, and can conduct such competitions as may be considered proper.

Winning Youngsters.

There seems to be a higher standard of football in the South Down area than in the others, due perhaps to the fact that football always held premier place in this part of the county. Hurling up to recently was mainly played in the Eastern side of the county, with the exception of Newry, who always seemed to be able to produce a good team, and who won the Co. Championship in 1903-4, this being the first official record we have of championship competition within the county. The Newry team at that period was known as the "Faughs."

To-day we have in Newry one of the finest teams in Ulster—the "Clan Uladhs"—who in 1932 as the Christian Brothers' School team, won the Minor Championship of Ulster.

Only a few weeks ago this youthful combination met and defeated the Co. Champions (Kilclief) by a large margin.

Other well-known teams in the Hurling fields of Down were (and some are still)—Ballyvarley, Leitrim, Kilclief and Portaferry. In recent years there has been a Junior Hurling League organised embracing teams from South and West Down and portion of Castlewellan or Mid-Down.

This League has been conducted very successfully and a number of new Hurling teams have been formed.

The Leitrim Club, when first formed, was known as the "Fontenoys," and up to last year, when they dropped away were a force to be reckoned with. The "Fontenoys" were first formed as a football club in 1888 by the late Mr. Patrick McAleenan and Mr. J. L. Savage.

Mr. Savage, who is still very much alive, attended St. Colman's College, Newry, when Michael Cusack, the founder of the Association, was teaching there.

Afterwards Mr. Savage attended at the founder's academy in Dublin for a special course of study, and was taught hurling by him in Phoenix Park.

By

P. S. de Barra

Although records of teams can be traced back to 1880, the first attempt to form a league was made in 1885, when a Football League was formed in the South end of the County, the following districts presenting teams:—Newry, Sheepbridge, Lenish (Kilcoo), Warrenpoint, Edenmore, and Mayobridge. This tournament apparently attracted much attention, and Warrenpoint were the winners after playing a drawn game, and then later an exciting final with Edenmore.

Hurling was first introduced into the county officially by Mr. Art McGann, the present head of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, in 1901, when he (Mr. McGann) brought over a Belfast team to play a game, and

since then Down has been playing hurling continuously, a fact that few other counties can hardly beat.

The Down Co. Committee have always aimed high, and although they may not have achieved all their ambitions, yet something has been accomplished. The County for a number of years was carrying on under tremendous difficulties, and hardly any county in Ireland had greater disadvantages, financial and otherwise; but this was an incentive to the Gaels of Down rather than a disheartening. Some people might be inclined to think that the efforts made, and their results, were relatively futile, but yet

Down has something to be proud of that, for the first time, in 1931, they won the Junior Football Championship of Ulster, and in 1932 the Minor Hurling Championship of the province.

They are struggling for and gradually obtaining their place in the sun.

From Ten to Forty.

The present period is the brightest in the history of the Association in the county. For over thirty years the organisation was struggling with from five to ten affiliated clubs; to-day, as already stated, there are over forty clubs. This is indeed what might be called progress. The Committee's objective of trying to enlist the aid of all nationally-minded people in the county is bearing fruit. However we may differ in politics and other matters, the fundamentals of all are the same—the promotion of our national language, music and games. We wish to retain the ideals of Ireland as a whole, so that when the ultimate reunion between our divided nation takes place, we may march forward proudly in possessing the characteristics possessed by the rest of our fellow countrymen, and typical of our race.

The letter of the great Archbishop Croke at the founding of the Association to Michael Cusack, is our inspiration, and we will not cease in our efforts till its purport be clearly understood and lived up to.

GREAT WEIGHT-THROWER

IN August, 1894, William Real, of Pallasgreen, the famous weight-thrower, died. He had been a member of the "Invasion" team of 1888. At putting the 42 lbs. and 56 lbs. he had no equal in his day. He never stripped at an athletic meeting, but merely let his braces drop at his sides before he competed. He died at 33.

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ANTRIM FOUND NAMES FOR HER TEAMS IN HISTORY

By

Oibrightheoir

THE fire that flamed in Thurles spread to Antrim, and set alight a patriotic glen that flared up resplendent for a brief period and then lapsed into smouldering ashes. At the beginning of the century the ashes were raked into vigorous life again by young Gaelic League enthusiasts who formed G.A.A. clubs within their language classes, and these pioneer clubs, Brian Og, Tir na nOg, Pioneers, Gaels, and John Mitchels, refuelled the fire with the unquenchable spirit of Irish nationality. Though occasionally dimmed by the water of persecution, they were never extinguished, and to-day they shine out refulgently with increasing light and power.

Brian Og had the honour of being first hurling champions of Antrim in 1901. They were successful again in 1908, when managed by Sean Corrigan, to whose honour the County Ground, Belfast, was enclosed. Mick Langtry, a sturdy hurler from mid-Ireland, was first captain. Later J. McGowan, an Ulster champion swimmer and a capable athlete, was at the helm. Both were inter-county players, and A. Donnelly, J. Mackle, J. Galbraith, P. and J. McKeown, and T. Rogan, are other Brian Og players who were honoured by Antrim.

To the Finals!

Langtry transferred his services to Lamh-dearg, a team expected to make history, and it won the 1902 championship. This team improved the standard of hurling in Antrim immensely. Enthusiasm for training was generated, and after an initial defeat by Galway, in its first All-Ireland Championship, of 16 points to 1, improvement set in so rapidly that four years later Wexford were fully stretched, and another few years found Galway held to a single score win. Harry and Jimmy Laverty, Paddy Orr, Jimmy Brady, Cathal McComb, and John McDonnell were Red Hands' most prominent county players. Harry Laverty was a right winger who could cut the ball off the ground, over the cross-bar from the touch-line, while on the run. He had a beautiful stroke and was very accurate.

Antrim's Minor Footballers.

A Young Giant.

Belfast "O'Neill Crowleys," affiliated in 1902, made remarkable progress, and won the county hurling title in 1903, and again in 1907.

Hugh O'Toole, the first captain, was a powerful young giant of 6' 3" or 6' 4" who could leap 6 feet high with ease.

His death in his prime was lamented by all Belfast Gaels, who raised a memorial over his grave in Hannahstown Cemetery. Crowleys won the Football Championship in 1905.

Drawn from the Civil Service with a number of experienced Southern hurlers, it was surprising that Tir na nOg, one of the pioneer clubs, should be so long in winning a championship. They landed the Donnelly Cup—presented in 1904 for the Antrim Hurling Championship—in 1904 and 1905. In 1902 they won the Antrim Football Championship, and at once ceased to cater for the big ball game, although many of their players later assisted Ollamh-Fodhla, a club that took part in football only. Tir na nOg gave Ulster its first provincial secretary, Mr. Geo. Martin, solicitor; and later Mr. Pat. McFadden, who started with Brian Og and assisted Tir na nOg, was also Ulster secretary and afterwards Ulster chairman.

A little village of a hundred inhabitants sent a team to Belfast. Then the city champions who had reigned for years, began to learn things about hurling.

Tir na nOg did much to spread love for Gaelic culture in Ulster. Messrs. J. Cooper, B.L., and D. Maguire, B.Com.Sc., were pioneers of this club, Gaelic League secretaries, and still take an active part in both organisations. Joe Cooper also was one of the founders of "Ollamh-Fodhla"—a great football club.

The Craobh Goes North.

Antrim Glens took up hurling in 1903, and until 1933 kept to hurling only. It was in 1906 that Carey Faughs brought the first championship North. The brothers, Pat (killed during the War of Independence), Dan, James, Frank, Hugh, and Joe McCarny were the mainstays of this team.

Joe, the youngest, was best known; he won half a dozen Ulster medals and was a left-winger of outstanding merit. P. Moore, solicitor, who was Antrim county chairman from 1904-1907, was also a stalwart hurler; and A. McKinley, A. Butler, P. Butler, and J. Conway, were others who secured county honours.

Unlike city teams, the Glens' teams never wholly disbanded; with an occasional lapse of a year Ballycastle McQuillans, Carey Faughs, Glenariff Ossians, Cushendun Emmets, Loughquile Shamrocks, Glenravel, Con. Magees, and Cushendall Rory Ogs have always carried on.

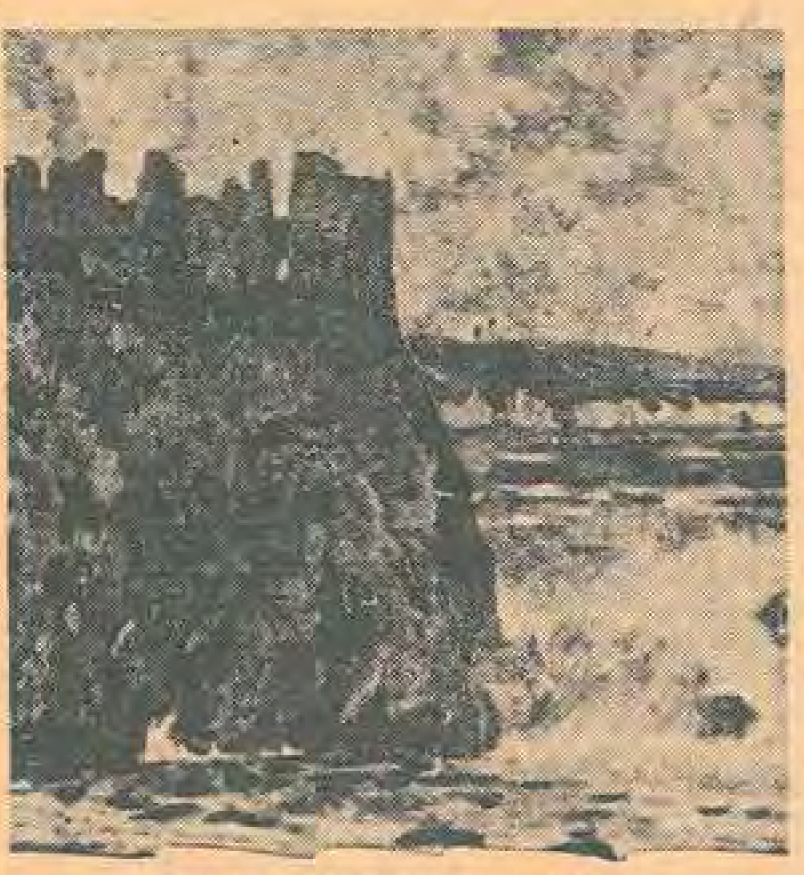
The Proud Shauns.

The advent of "Seaghan an Diomais," Belfast, the founders of Shaun's Park, marked a definite advance by the G.A.A. in Belfast. Shaun's Park was the centre of hurling, football, handball, and athletic activities for the Gaels of Antrim for a score of years. As a team, Shauns were a great force in hurling and football. Old stagers still recall the titanic battles in both codes between Shauns, Tir na nOg, Crowleys, and Mitchels. Truly battles between giants—physically, and in a playing sense.

From 1903 until 1912 Antrim County teams were of great physique; it was the period of Antrim's greatness in Inter-County and All-Ireland competitions. Antrim were supreme in Ulster hurling, and within a few points of All-Ireland Senior Championship class. It is a remarkable fact that when Antrim footballers won their first All-Ireland Football semi-final, beating Kilkenny 3-1 to 1-1 at Croke Park, the selectors considered that the hurling team which played Limerick on the same day had a better chance, and picked it first, including H. Sheehan, and others who would otherwise have been first choices on the football team.

Even Kerry—and Kildare!

The rise of Shauns, Ollamh-Fodhla, and John Mitchels to football power put Antrim in the first flight of football counties. Shauns won the County title in 1903, 1906, 1909, and 1910; Ollamh-Fodhla, 1907, 1908, and Mitchels in 1911 and 1912. Patrick Sarsfields, who



Dunluce on Antrim's Rugged Coast.

had a share in the glory, won the title in 1913. From Those teams were drawn those football giants who won the Ulster Football Championships in the six consecutive years from 1908 to 1913—a feat unequalled in Ulster football, and every tie, semi-final and final played on opponents' territory—and two All-Ireland semi-finals, 1911 and 1912.

The second All-Ireland semi-final was against Kerry, who were trounced by the substantial score of 3-5 to 0-2.

A few months later, on a challenge by Kildare, the Leinster champions went down beaten by the heavy score of 4-3 to 1-1. Most notable of the players who established these records were: H. Shahan, a sturdily-built athlete who won many prizes at weight and hammer-throwing, and a facile hurler and footballer; J. Murphy, P. Barnes, H. Kane, L. Walters, and T. Sheehan (Shauns), P. A. Kelly, J. Gallagher, P. Moylan, W. Manning, C. McCarny, S. Darby (Ollamh-Fodhla), J. Mulvihill (the most versatile footballer who ever represented Antrim), W. Manning, junr.; E. Gorman, J. Mullan, W. Mulholland, W. Thomas (Mitchels), J. Coburn (captain against Kerry, a safe back and a judicious skipper, and in recent years the most efficient official in Ulster), E. Ward, J. Monaghan, W. Lennon (Sarsfields), J. Healy, P. Meaney, W. Goggins (Cuchullains), and J. McCreely, and A. Mullan (Crowleys).

The Fire Dies Out.

With the failure of Antrim to beat Louth in the 1912 All-Ireland Football Final, a great epoch in Antrim Gaelic football history closed. In 1914 James Stephens won the County Championship, which they held for six consecutive years, and again in 1922. During their tenure as champions Antrim never won an Ulster title, this being due to the fact that when great club players, such as D. Quinn, J. Hale, J. Best, P. Brennan, J. McKeown, W. Rea, and P. Monaghan, were separated they were at "sea," and their combination was broken. Joe Gallagher was the outstanding county football success of Stephens; but he had already an All-Ireland record before joining Stephens. Although primarily a football club, they won the Hurling Championship in 1917.

The Stephen club brought together two players who put up a remarkable record—Joe Gallagher and John McKeown. They played with Stephens from 1913 till 1924, and, on the latter becoming defunct, joined Tir na nOg (Randalstown), with whom they are presently playing.

Gallagher started to play hurling with Tir na nOg in 1908, and football with Ollamh Fodhla in the same year. His first inter-county football match was against Monaghan, in 1911, and he was a first choice on Antrim football teams from then until 1927. He also played on Antrim hurling teams from 1916 until 1926.

McKeown, when a member of Brian Og, in 1908 played against Clare in Croke Park, and has shared in all Antrim's hurling triumphs since. He captained the Antrim hurling team from 1923, and led the team which won back the Ulster title from Donegal last year, and has a record number of provincial hurling medals. Although a prolific scorer in local football—and on one occasion had the unique distinction in an Antrim Senior Football League game of scoring a goal direct from the

(*Continued on Page* 37.)

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ANTRIM'S HISTORICAL TEAM-NAMES

(*Continued from Page* 36.)

referee's throw-in, without another player touching the ball—he was a failure as a county footballer.

With the imagination of Antrim Gaelic "fans" gripped by football, hurling took a secondary place for a period.

From their inauguration, Shauns specialised in hurling; but it was not until 1908 that they earned major honours. They got "there" again in 1910 and 1915. In H. and T. Sheehan, P. and J. McGinley, F. and P. McGoey, F. M. Carragher, J. Hynes, F. Vallely, W. Rea, T. Marley, and A. Donnelly they had county hurlers of the highest class.

Mitchels, who had the distinction of winning the dual County Championships in 1911-'12, were of the light, fast type. At their inception they had great players in J. O'Malley (Clare), D. Higgins, R. M. Daniel, and R. Purley. Their championship teams were of the light, fast type, as exemplified in their clever county players.

In 1918 O'Donovan Rossas arose from the volunteers, and, full of fervour, carried all before them in this and the following year. They won the hurling title in 1918, 1919, and 1921, and the football title in 1920, 1921, and 1930.

Loughquile Shamrocks, who won the Hurling Championship honours in 1924, 1925, and 1929, gave many fine hurlers to Antrim County. J. McKee, the finest back in Antrim in his day, and one of a big family of hurlers, including Rev. J. McKee, C.C.; E. Connelly, Antrim's best forward, both of these played for Ulster in 1926 Tailteann Games. Also J. and G. Connolly, C. McCormick, and J. P. McAllister.

Village versus City.

In 1924 Dunley, a little village of a few hundred inhabitants, sent a team to Belfast that astounded local Gaels by defeating the reigning champions, Stephens; they won the championship in 1924, '25, '26, and '27. In P. Cunning (Antrims's football captain for many years, and the most prolific scorer in football or hurling that ever played in county games for Antrim) Dunley Cuchullains gave a great player to his native county. Cunning was also a successful inter-provincial football player. J. McFerran, also a provincial player; P. McGuckian, a young giant with a 70-yards' kick in his right foot; J. Brogan, D. Brogan, N. M. Campbell, J. Myles, and T. Kearns assisted Antrim county football teams.

Ballycastle "McQuillans," the first North Antrim team to win the Hurling title in successive years, 1913-'14, won it last year again.

In early days this team had fine hurlers.

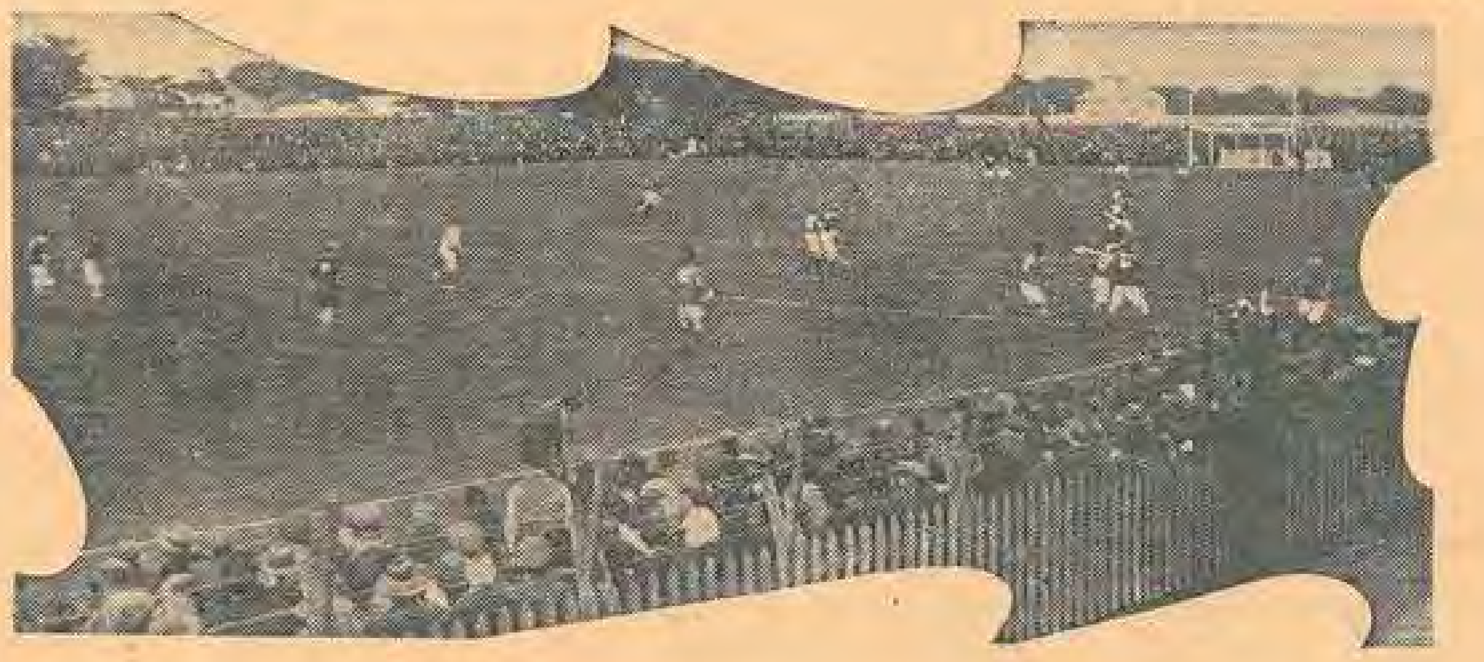
Cushendun Emmets, one of the premier teams in the Glens, won the Hurling Championship in 1931. D. McKagan, A. Black and D. McCormick were honoured by Antrim.

The latest Antrim Football Champions, Ardoyne, have set a new style in Antrim football that promises to lift it into a better class.

While Antrim legislators and managers seek honours for their county and players, they have always kept such ambition in its proper place. They have worked to spread the game and to develop the spirit of nationality through the games, and to inspire all Gaels with a love for native culture, the acquisition of which by its members is the primary object of all Gaelic Associations.

"THIS DUBLIN OF OURS WAS AN ENGLISH CITY"

Till Cusack gathered his men into little halls that have become famous



THE Cathedral Town of Thurles claims the proud credit of being the birthplace of the Association, and rightly so, but it must be remembered that the foundations of the Association were laid in Dublin by its founder and the couple of willing workers that he gathered together. The files of the old "United Ireland" bear testimony to the numerous informal gatherings of the few earnest men that met together each week in Dublin before the Association was finally launched in Thurles. The G.A.A. had much to contend with in Dublin in the early years of its existence, and its chequered history in the "Capital of the Pale" during these early years makes one wonder how it survived, but the earnestness and determination of the small band of willing workers, who kept the flag flying, proved that the indominitable spirit of the Gael could not be extinguished.

Almost all of the old school who were connected with the G.A.A. in Dublin in the years of which I write have passed away, and those of us who came after them are a tribute to their memory.

For they planted the standard proudly in a city, then, as now, "sorely overrun with alien games and customs."

Thirty odd years active connection with our organisation is a long time surely, but then connection with the G.A.A. is like living in Tir-na-nOg.

The Launching in Dublin.

It was some time about the end of 1885 that the G.A.A. was launched in Dublin by the holding of several hurling and football tournaments. In February, 1886, a hurling contest was played in the Phœnix Park between North Tipperary and South Galway, which was refereed by Mr. Cusack, who had assisting him, the late Mr. John Wyse Power, and the late Mr. John Clancy, T.C., in addition to Mr. L. Murphy, Togher, with members of the newly-organised clubs, the Metropolitans, Davitts and Faughs. From this our organisation was launched and in February, 1886, it was reported that the following Dublin clubs had affiliated to the G.A.A.:—Metropolitan H.C., Faugh-a-Ballagh H.C., Ml. Davitt F.C., Terenure College, Grocers' Assistants, Dunleary, and Dalkey. The progress of the Association was slow in Dublin City and County for some years. Many tournaments took place in Dublin during the years 1886-87. Internal troubles had much to do with the slow progress, but matters settled down after the famous 1887 All-Ireland Convention.

By

Lorcan O Tuathail

An All-Dublin Convention was held in the Foresters' Hall, Merchants' Quay, on January 1st, 1888, when Mr. John Wyse Power was elected Chairman of the Dublin Branch; Mr. J. F. Meagher (Dunleary) Treasurer; and Mr. J. J. Kenny (Secretary).

The Metropolitans and Erin's Hope won the first Dublin Hurling and Football Championships, and Dublin were drawn against Tipperary in both Inter-County Championships by the Central Council. The matches were fixed to be played at Mountrath (Leix) on Saturday, 30th July, 1887. The two Dublin teams wrote to the Council asking for a postponement, on the grounds that a number of their players were on holidays. The applications were refused, and Tipperary got a walk-over. The progress of the Association in Dublin during the years 1888 to 1894 was steady.

In 1889, Dublin won its first All-Ireland, when the Kickhams defeated Clare (Tulla) in the Hurling Championship, played at Inchicore on 3rd November, 1889, by 5-1 to 1-6.

The principal clubs in Dublin in these years were the Kickhams, Faughs, Young Ireland F.C., Rapparees H.C., Round Towers, and Davitts. The next All-Ireland, that Dublin figured in was the 1891 Football Final, played in Clonturk, on February 28th, 1892, when the Young Irelands defeated Clondrohid (Cork) by 2-1 to 1-9. At this period a goal outnumbered any number of points. Dublin were again in the picture in the 1892 All-Ireland Hurling Championship, and old Gaels will recall the All-Ireland Final, with 17 aside, that took place at Clonturk 41 years ago (26th March, 1893), when the Redmonds of Cork played the Faugh-Davitts of Dublin. The latter withdrew after fifty minutes' play, when the score read 2-4 to 1-1.

The year 1890 saw the rise of the Isles of the Sea, that famous football combination from Ringsend, who captured the All-Ireland Football Final of 1890.

The Dublin Young Irelands came into prominence in 1891 and made history by winning four successive Co. Football Championships, 1891-94. They won the 1892 All-Ireland in defeating Laune Rangers of Kerry at Clonturk Park on 26th March, 1893, but their next All-Ireland, that of 1894, had an interesting sequel. They played Cork at Clonturk on 24th March, 1895, where the game ended in a draw, 6 points to 1-1, a goal at that time equalling five points. The replay took place at Thurles on April 21st, where the match was unfinished, the scores at the time being, Cork 1-2, Dublin 5 points. Dublin were subsequently declared champions. The Rapparees, Commercials, Faughs, and Kickhams were the alternate winners of the Dublin Co. Hurling Championships from 1895 to 1908, the Commercials winning it from 1895 to 1899, while the Faughs won it in 1900-1, 1903-4, and in 1906, followed by the Commercials and Kickhams winning it in 1907 and 1908.

The Geraldines.

The success of the Young Irelands in football was followed by the Isles again in 1895, and Young Irelands and Kickhams in 1896 and '97.

And now the Geraldines came in the horizon in the years 1898-9, and signallised their entry by capturing the Co. Football Championship the two years in succession, and winning the 1898 All-Ireland Final, which had been won by Kickhams the previous year. They followed this up by winning the 1899 Final, when they defeated Fermoy at Jones's Road on 10th February, 1901. Their match in the 1898 Final was against Waterford Erin's Hope, played at Tipperary on April 8th, 1900.

Dublin were unlucky in the All-Ireland Hurling Finals during the years 1894 to 1904. The Rapparees were beaten by the Rockies in the former Final, and in the 1896 Final Tubberadora defeated the Commercials' selection. Cork beat the Faugh selection in the 1902 Final; and we were not heard of again until the 1906 Final, when the Faughs were defeated by Thurles at Kilkenny on 27th October, 1907. Thurles again put paid to our account in the 1908 Final when they beat the Kickham selection at Athy on June 27th, 1909, having previously played a draw at Jones's Road on April 23rd.

We fade away again from All-Ireland Hurling history until the advent of the Collegians, who won the 1917-19 Co. Championships.

They defeated Boherlahan in the 1917 All-Ireland at Croke Park on October 28 of that year by 5-4 to 4-2. In the 1919 Final the Collegians opposed Cork selection and went under by 6-4 to 2-4. The Faughs avenged this defeat by defeating a Cork selection in the 1920 Final by 4-9 to 4-3. During the 13 intervening years we have been rather unfortunate in the All-Ireland Hurling Finals. After the defeat of the Faugh selection in the 1921 Final we were not heard of again until the 1924 Final, when the Kickham selection beat Galway, and again in 1927, when the Gárda selection won from Cork. The 1930 Final is still fresh in the minds of hurling enthusiasts, as they will recall the defeat of the Faugh selection by Tipperary in the Final of that year, played at Croke Park on September 7th, 1930. Our successes in the All-Ireland Football Finals have amply compensated for our ill-luck in the Hurling. Following the success of Geraldines in the 1899 Final referred to above,

many old Gaels will recall the meteoric rise again of the old "Isles" in 1900 and their fine victory over the Cork Nils in the All-Ireland Final of 1901, which took place at Tipperary on July 5th, 1903,

and the success of the Bray Emmets in the 1902 Final over Tipperary. We fade out of the picture in football after this until 1904. The Kickhams won four Co. Championships, 1904-7, and met Kerry in the 1904 All-Ireland Final at Cork on July 1st, 1906, when the Tralee Mitchells beat us by 5 points to 2. From 1907 down to 1917 the Co. Championship winners alternated between Keatings, Geraldines, Kickhams, and Parnells. The Kickham selection won the 1906 and 1907 All-Ireland Finals, defeating Fermoy and Cork Lees these two years. The Geraldine selection won the 1908 Final, defeating Tralee Mitchells by 10 points to 3 at Thurles on 9th May, 1909. From this down to 1920 Dublin are not heard of in the All-Ireland Football Finals, but the rise of the famous O'Tooles in 1918 brought a change.

This combination captured three successive Co. Championships, 1918-20,

but were beaten by Tipperary in the 1920 All-Ireland at Croke Park on June 11th, 1922, by 1-6 to 1-2. Their parish confreres—St. Marys—atoned for this by winning the 1922 Final against the Ballina Stephenites on June 17th, 1923, at Croke Park. Nothing daunted the O'Tooles were again to the fore in Dublin from the years 1922 to 1926, winning no less than five successive Co. Championships. In addition they won the 1922 and 1923 All-Ireland Finals, defeating Galway and Kerry respectively, but they lost to the latter in the 1924 Final by 1 point—4 points to 3. We have not figured in an All-Ireland Football Final since then.

The cycle of time tells us that there is one due, and what more appropriate time could it occur than in this the Jubilee year.

But whether it comes this year or next, we take our defeats the same as our victories, realising that we are members of an organisation whose founders intended it to be National in tone and sentiment, and not a mere medal-winning association.

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IT WAS THE GAELIC LEAGUERS WHO RALLIED DONEGAL

They came to the first meeting place on horseback, on push-bike and on foot, over Errigal and Muckish Gap, to the town of the Four Masters.

By

Sean O Caiside

IN common with other Ulster counties, the flag of the G.A.A. was not raised in Donegal until a comparatively late date in the history of the Organisation, and although the Caman was traditional all over the county, and is still played sporadically, it was not until 1905 that a serious effort was made to organise native games and affiliate to the parent body.

The irregular configuration and remoteness of the county from the hub of Gaelic activity, as well as the denationalising influences of the guerdon of Imperial forces were contributing causes to the overdue advent into the county of the Gaelic Athletic Organisation.

But another organisation was even then virile and active in the county: the Gaelic League had its vanguard in action, and to the foresight of these pioneers of faith in the League by allying to their aid faith in our games, is due the G.A.A. in Donegal.

Donegal Town of the Four Masters was the centre of the national drive, and not without reason, for there dwelt P. M. Gallagher, Solicitor, and Crann Taca of the Gaels on those days; Dr. Maguire, D.D., too, was in the immediate vicinity. Sheamus McManus lived in Tawnatallon, and Dick Bonner, N.T., of Townawilly (who suffered the vindictive spleen of the Imperial National Board by dismissal for refusal to retract the views he expressed in a public speech on Glentogher Hill, where the principal speakers were F. J. Bigger and Bulmer Hobson)—these were the moving spirits.

Champion Minors of Donegal.

Dr. Maguire, D.D., was elected President, and the duty of Secretary was diligently carried out by Mr. Alec McDyse, N.T., Kilraine, during the years 1905-'08.

At Tawnatallon the inaugural meetings were convened—even on the Mount to which Charley affixed his bonnie name, and thither came delegates on push bicycle and foot from distant Gweedore, Brackey, Ardara, Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Burt, Letterkenny. In the committee formed we find James McGahern, Eddy Daly, hale and hearty yet, and assiduous in his duties as Urban Council Clerk of Bundoran—then principal teacher of the town. Domhnall Boyle, working under the Gaelic League, also was of the patriotic band.

At first attention was given to the organisation and promotion of hurling, and clubs were set going in the north and south of the county, prominent amongst these being Burt, *Hibernians* from the Shadow of Royal Aileach, old Celts from Ardaghy and *Sinn Finn* from Bundoran—names which are looked on as milestones in the varied history of our country.

That considerable progress had been made in efficiency is shown by Donegal's earning the title of Ulster Hurling Champions in 1906. The game became popular and its popularity was further enhanced through the favour shown by the presentation of a beautiful trophy by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, afterwards Cardinal and Primate.

Football was not neglected, and teams took part in the competitions under the County Board from Gweedore, Letterkenny, Donegal Town, Ballyshannon, Mountcharles and Bundoran. The winners in these early years were Lámh Dearg and Baih Dearg, from Letterkenny and Donegal respectively—runners-up being Red Hughs of Killygordon.

Unfortunately the promise of the early years was not allowed to fructify; disapproval by superiors of their activity in the organisation was, if not directly given, implicitly hinted to the workers in the cause of our national games, and perforce many of the most zealous workers had to withdraw. As a result a break in progress ensued, and not until 1918, when the clarion call went forth to the manhood of Ireland to supplement the efforts of the more ardent Gaels, the reorganisation of the county was undertaken. Amongst these we find Seán Curran, Letterkenny; the O'Flahertys of Castlefin, Denis P. Gallagher, a native of Donegal parish, then a school teacher near Killygordon.

In quite a brief space Gaelic clubs were formed all over the county and our native games got going full blast ahead.

Football now made a great appeal, and East opposed South in hectic games in County Championship.

First we have Bundoran, ably captained by Michael McHugh, winning by a narrow margin the County Title of 1919 from Killygordon "Red Hughs," with Paddy Hannigan to the fore. Next year Red Hughs avenge the defeat of the previous year. Castlefin, Donegal, won out in '21 and '22 with Glenties and Dungloe, respectively, as good seconds.

At this time Ardara got in the running and practically kept possession of the trophy in County Football from '23 to '28. Dungloe now became a fighting force when Rosses, supplemented by Gweedore, and won the title in successive years—Ballyshannon deserved the County honours in 1932, but last year Dungloe regained the Dr. Maguire Cup.

Juniors honours in the province came to Donegal in 1930, but fell to Dublin after a replay. A further step was made last year in winning Inter-provincial Junior Football against Cork, but at Croke Park the title of All-Ireland was lost to Mayo. Hurling is progressing apace also, our County team winning the Ulster Championship in 1923, but failed to cope with Limerick in the resulting Inter-provincial. In 1932 Donegal wrested the Championship of Ulster Hurling from Antrim, who held pride of place continuously from 1924 to '31.

Prominent players for the county, in addition to those mentioned, were Manus O'Flaherty, Castlefin; John and Eddy Brady, of Red Hughs; C. Roarty, Rovers, Letterkenny; P. Mulvihill, of Donegal Town; Dinny Mooney, Jimmy aGllagher (Ned), Jim and Con Hannah, C. McDyer, N.T., of the Ardara Club; Owny McFadden, N.T., and John O'Donnell, and the Sweeney Bros., of Dungloe—still going strong—J. Lawn, of Donegal, Gallinagh and the brothers McDermott, and Kane of Ballyshannon, while Pete Clancy and Paddy McManus have helped to give status to Gaelic football in Bundoran and the county.

In Hurling, the Whoriskys of Burt, Dohertys of Innishowen, D. Taylor, C.G., were fine exponents of the game.

To the Brothers of the De La Salle Order at Ballyshannon, notably Bros. Cassin (Assaroe), and Lucian; Joe McDevitt of Kilcar, B. Brady, T.D., Killybegs; T. O'Donoghue, Excise Officer at Glenties in former days, and Seán Cassidy, who for many years has been County Chairman; Seán Conaghan, Glenties, the progress of the county in recent years is to a great part due. Joe Maguire, N.T., of Bundoran, did Herculean work as Secretary last year.

In 1932 the county, for better organisation, was divided into four sections. A Hurling Board, in addition, was set up, having as Secretary that fine hurler, Micheal Breathnac, captain of the county team, ably assisted by M. Doherty, N.T., Buncrana, as Chairman.

Under the guidance of Mr. C. McDyre, N.T., as Chairman, an Seán Kennedy, N.T., Donegal expects to achieve further progress and add to its laurels in the near future.

KERRY-KILDARE'S PART

The receipts of the Association—Central Provincial, and Athletic Councils—in 1905 amounted to almost £3,000. The famous Kerry and Kildare matches for the 1903 Finals, played two years later, swelled the revenue of the Central Council considerably, and did a good deal towards developing Gaelic football.

—*Story of the G.A.A.* (*O'Sullivan*).

G.A.A. FINALS

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See Page 93

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Cois Tráġa—An Áit mar a d'imriġeadar é

Muinntir Ciarraiġe i n-aġaiḋ Máirnéalaiġ Ṡasana

Ag

Duiḃneaċ

IS mó cluiċe maiṫ peile a connac lem' ré i bPáirc an Ċrócaiġ agus i n-áiteanna eile. Connaic laoċra Ċiarraiġe, Luġbaiḋe, Ċill Dara, Loċ gCarman agus laoċra fuinneamla naċ iad ag léiriú ealaḋan na peilioċta. Ní h-aon fuireann de sna fóirne sin ná aon ċeann de sna cluiċí croiḋe-ḃrostuiġṫeaċa sin áṁ ba mó a ċuaiḋ i gcion ar mo ċuiṁne. aċ dream eile ar fad.

Lá Coille a ḃí ann fadó, fadó riaṁ. Ní raḃas aċ i n-aois seaċt mbliaḋna nó mar sin, agus d'ḟágfaḋ sin go ḃfuil sé isteaċ is amaċ le cúig bliaḋna déag ar fiċid ó soin. Ḃí cúpla mairnéalaċ ó'n áit a ḃí i gCaḃlaċ Ċogaiḋ Ṡasana ag baile ar a saoire. 'Sé an áit atá i gceist agam ná Paróiste an Ḟirteuraiġ i n-iarṫar Duiḃneaċ i gCiarraiġe, agus má tá aon ṗaróiste i nÉirinn a b'ḟearr a seasaim le tiodnacal a sean agus a sinnsear ná é, ba maiṫ liom cuairt a ṫaḃairt air. **Ní raiḃ aon ṁeas i n-aonċor annsúd ar ḟaiġdiúirí, aċ do ḃí sár-ṁeas ar 'mairnéalaiġ'—an ḟairrge is dóċa.** Anois ba ċóir dom a ráḋ gur annaṁ a ḃíoḋ peil nó 'caid' mar a tugaimíd ṫiar uirṫe, annsúd ag an uair sin. 'Na diaiḋ súd nuair do ḃí na cótaí caiṫte ar leaṫtaoiḃ agus bríste liom féin orm agus 'fearuíoċt' ag borraḋ, b'aṁlaiḋ a ḃíoḋ orainn leaṫ-ṗáca prátaí a bailiú nó a goid agus iad sin a díol le duine éigin. Ḃeaḋ ar beirt garsún éigin annsan lá 'múrtéala' a déanaṁ de agus rit isteaċ 'on Daingean, deiċ míle ó baile, ar dá pingin nó leaṫ-raol an duine, ċun an ċaid a ċeannaċ ó ṡean-Jacky agus í ḃeiṫ acu dúinn tar éis scoile. Níl aon áiṫḃéir sa méid sin—aċ, ċun teaċt ar mo scéal.

An Baile do B'ḟearr!

Ḃí na 'mairnéalaiġ' sa baile, roinnt airgid acu, agus ar m'ḟocal aċ dob' ḟial sa ċaiṫeaṁ iad. Ċeannuiġeadar caid. Ḃí an ċaid le caiṫeaṁ i n-áirde ṫiar ar an dtráiġ idir bailte fearainn an paróiste go léir, agus pé baile go ráineoċaḋ leo í scuabaḋ leo ó'n sluaġ, ba leo sin í, agus creid mise leat nár ḃog an scuabaḋ céadna, aċ, ba mór í an duais. Níor ḃ'í an duais ar fad aċ oiread a ṫarraing an sluaġ aċ mianaċ an laoċais. Sluaġ. Tá sé ar na cuiṁnte is sia siar im' ċeann cé ná raḃas aċ im' páiste ar láiṁ mo daid. Ḃí fonn ar mo daid féin ḃeiṫ páirte sa ċoiṁeascar agus ní déarfainn ná gur ċun é a ċoimeád as a ċuir mo ṁam mise de ċúram air. Ṫuas ar an ndúṁaċ a ḃíomar-na, ag féaċaint síos uainn orṫa. Agus do b'ann a ḃíodar. Ní raiḃ bróga peile orṫa agus ní luġa ná mar a ḃí bristíní gearra bána orṫa, ná níor ḃaineadar a gcasóga díoḃ ċuige, mar nárḃ'é an t-allus a stadfaḋ iad súd a ḃí fuinnte cruaiḋte ag an gclair agus ag tocta na naoṁóige. Ḃíodar ann ó Árd na Caiṫne go seang agus go tarraingṫe; fir leaṫan-ṡlinneánaċa, fuinneaṁla na nGort nDuḃ, gan tráċt ar óganaiġ acfuinneaċa Baile'n Ċalaḋ, an Baile Uaċtaraiġ, Baile Earḃuiġ, Túr Duḃáin, ná na bailtí máguairt—ḃíodar, agus ó Márṫain ann agus níor beag le ráḋ iad. Caiṫ duine de sna mairnéalaiġ—Peadar Ó hUiġin, a báṫaḋ ar ball i Uellington sa Séalainn Nuaḋ, beannaċt dílis Dé le n-a anam—caiṫ sé an ċaid isteaċ. Nílim i n-inne cunntas ceart a ṫaḃairt ar an gcluiċe úd—'Siar a geobaiḋ,' arsa laoċra Ċloċair agus na Gráige; 'Sean-ċoirce na nGort nDuḃ ċuige,' 'Árd na Caiṫne, mo ġráḋ sib,' agus gártaí molta agus spíorúcána eile.

"Ní Ċoiscfeaḋ Fairrge——"

Speaċ soir agus speaċ siar, níor ċúirse ag an lastráġa í ná mar a ḃeaḋ sí ċuas ar an mbarrataoide. Dá n-éiriġeoċaḋ le fear Márṫain greim a ḋ'ḟaġáil uirṫe agus dul i muiniġin a cos, beidis uile 'na diaiḋ. "Teannṫuiġ é. Sáruiġ an diabal." Is cuiṁin liom speaċ mór láidir a ḃuail duine éigin uirṫe gur ċuaiḋ sí amaċ sa ḃfairrge; aċ, ní ċoiscfeaḋ fairrge iad súd, ná raiḃ taiṫiġe acu ar an sáile, naċ minic a ḃíodar go h-uċt innte ag bailiú feamnaiġe. Ḃí cúigear nó seisear sa snáṁ láiṫreaċ agus an ċaid ar an dtráiġ arís. Ḃí an cluiċe ar siuḃal timċeall le cúpla uair an ċluig nuair do ċuimniġ buaċaillí Árd na Caiṫne ar ċleas caṫa. Ḃí árd-fear le lúṫ i nÁrd na Caiṫne an uair úd dárb' ainm "Hound" Ó Conaill: cuireaḋ é sin suas ar an ndumaċ agus nuair do fuair muinntir a baile an ċaoi ċuireadar an ċaid suas tar port.

An Cú a' Buaiḋ!

Greamuiġ an "Cú" í agus ḃí sé suas ag an gcuid eile ḃeiṫ ag iarraiḋ teaċt suas leis mar ba geall le gearrfiaḋ é ag cur Currac an Ḟearainn soir de. Dia leat, a Ċonaill, bís ar ċeann dem' ḋéiṫiḋ beaga riaṁ 'na diaiḋ sin. Ċuaiḋ sé go dtí Meiriceá agus do ċuir Dia an raṫ air, aċ níor ṫug sé a ċúl le n-a ċine mar nuair do ṫug turus abaile cúpla bliaḋain ó soin tar éis breis agus deiċ mbliaḋna fiċead, b'aige féin a ḃí an teanga líoṁṫa Gaeḋilge.

B'é súd an cluiċe deireannaċ eadar-ṗaróisteaċ de'n tsaġas úd a h-imreaḋ i nDuiḃneaċ. Tá a lán de sna gleacaiḋṫe go beo bríoġṁar fós agus a lán eile díoḃ ar slíġe na fírinne—raṫ Dé, Muire agus Naoṁ Éireann orṫa go léir.

An Tuaisceart An Aġaiḋ!

Tar éis Troid na n-Aos Anuas.

An Tor Glas

TÁ luċt stiúrṫa na Lúṫ-Ċleas nGaeḋealaċ ag obair sa díċeall i ngaċ contae i nÉirinn na bliaḋantaí deireannaċa seo. Ḃí an tuaisceart ar gcúl go dtí le goirid aċt tá sé ag muscluḋ le misneaċ mór. Má ċongḃeoċar leis ba ċóir go mbíoḋ obair ṫairḃeaċ déanta i gcionn cúpla bliaḋain eile. Is iomḋa rud a ċuidiġeas le spórt agus is iomḋa rud a ṁilleas é. Gníonn díoġḃáil oibre i bparóiste nó i mbaile docar. Má tá sliġe-ḃeaṫa le fáġail ag fir óga agus cailíní tiocfaiḋ fás fiúntaċ ar rinncí agus cluiċí Gaeḋealaċa faoi stiúrú ceart i ngaċ ceanntar. Mur 'ḃfuil seasgaireaċt aca ní ḃeiḋ a n-áird ar spórt.

Ċan ag iarraiḋ cur síos ar goiḋé ba ċóir a déanaṁ nó ar an rud nár ceart a déanaṁ a ḃéinn-sa annseo aċt iarraiḋ a ṫaisbeaint má ḃí faillíġe a déanaṁ i n-áiteaċa go mb'féidir go raiḃ fáṫ leis. Ní ḃeaḋ iongantas orm na go ḃfuil áiteaċa ann go ḃfuil dalta áite atá i gcuiṁne agam fá láṫair.

I dtús m'óige caiṫinn saoire go minic ṫiar i dTír Ċonaill sa Gaeḋealtaċt—cor a ḃeiṫ anois fiċe bliaḋain ó soin. **'San am sin ní ḟeicṫeá cluiċe peile na tíre seo ṫiar annsin. Ní raiḃ súil ċoṁ gear ag Tír Ċonaill an uair sin ar Ḃaile Áṫa Cliaṫ agus ar an Deisceart is atá ó soin.** Agus tá fios againn uilig goiḋé'n t-aċrú a ṫáinig i nÉirinn le fiċe bliaḋan.

Ba ġnáṫaċ le furmór fear óg na gceanntar sin imṫeaċt go h-Albain agus go Sasan ar ṫeaċt an t-samraiḋ gaċ bliaḋain. Leanaḋ siad spórt ṫall annsin agus cé ḃeaḋ ag éileaṁ orṫa fá sin. Aċt ní ḃíoḋ le feiceáil aca aċt cluiċe "Soccer" gaċ Satarn nuair ḃíoḋ obair na seaċtṁaine déanta aca. Ba é sin an fáṫ naċ mbíoḋ aca aċt "Soccer" nuair a pilleaḋ siad arais.

Ba minic a connaic mé foirne "Soccer" ag imirt tráṫnóna Domnaiġ. Dá baile-talaiṁ a ḃíoḋ i gcomórtas ní ba minice. Ḃíoḋ an lúṫġair annsin dalta áit ar biṫ eile. Aċt ó luċt imearṫa agus a luċt leanaṁna ní ḃíoḋ á labairt aca aċt an Gaeḋilg.

An callán agus an ċainnt i dteangaiḋ a dtíre agus iad ag imirt cluiċe a tugaḋ isteaċ ó'n ċoigċríoċ.

Níl annsin aċt sompla aṁáin ar a ḃfuil de somplaí mar seo i nÉirinn—aċt b'féidir naċ ḃfuil an dara h-áit ar congḃuiġeaḋ an Gaeḋilg beo slán ann fríd an iomláin. Téiġeann fir óga na gceanntar sin tar sáile go fóill gaċ bliaḋain agus naċ sílfea go ḃfuil an t-am ann anois go mbéaḋ saoṫrú le fáġail aca sa baile 'n-áit obair na mianaċ agus na bfeirm i dtiortaí iasaċta. **Naċ fada a raċaḋ sé 'un feaḃais feasta, na Gaeḋilgeóirí féin a ċongḃáil sa baile?**

Tá aċrú mór i nIarṫar Tír Conaill fá láṫair, buiḋeaċas le Dia. B'é aḋḃar áṫais againn anuraiḋ a ḃfoireann 'feiceáilt i bPáirc an Ċrócaiġ i n-aġaiḋ foireann Ċorcaiġ agus Muiġeo. B'é an ċéad uair aca 'ḃeiṫ i bPáirc an Ċrócaiġ i gCraoḃ na Sóisear. Ḃí sé tuillte ag foirinn Muiġeo a ḃain an ċraoḃ sin anuraiḋ. Aċt tá súil agam go ḃfeicfiḋ muid Tír Ċonaill ann arís.

Tá cuiṁne agam fósta naċ raiḃ aċt cúpla foireann Gaeḋealaċ ar b'fiú ċraċt orṫa dá bliaḋain déag ó soin ann i nIarṫair Tír Conaill. Ag feis na contae sin ar an Ċloċán Liaṫ, 1914, a h-imreaḋ an ċéad cluiċe riaṁ ann. Anois tá amaċ agus isteaċ le deiċ bfoirne sa ceanntar. **Nuair atá na coláistí agus na múinteóirí anois ar ṫaoḃ na gCluiċe nGaeḋealaċ agus an taiḃ ṫiar ag cuidiú leis an taoiḃ ṫoir ba ċóir go mbíoḋ feaḃas maiṫ ar an ġluaiseaċt ann.**

Níl contaetí an tuaisceart uilig aċt ag fáġáil a gcos, déarfainn, cé go ḃfuil níos mó na tús déanta i gCo. an Cabáin. Ċuir Gaeḋil Muineaċáin a gcontae féin tar contaḃairt agus tá foireann láidir peile i nÁrdmaċa. Ḃéarfaiḋ Gaeḋil Ḟearmanaċ a sáiṫ do ceaċtar aca má ċuireann siad leis an talaṁ atá déanta aca le goirid. Níl aċt tús lag déanta i nDoire go fóill. Iománaiḋeaċt atá i gCo. Aontruime, i gCo. an Dúin agus i nInnis Eoġain agus foirne a mbeiḋ clú orṫa go fóill. Tá foireann maiṫ peile i dTír Eoġain agus cluinfear uaṫa fósta.

Tá an deacaireaċt ar fad ag Gaeḋil Ulaḋ a fuiġfear an lá gíota eile siar sul a mbéiḋ toraḋ na ngluaiseaċt i n-aġaiḋ Gallḋaċais le feiceáil ann go fóill. Aċt tiocfaiḋ sé . . . .

G.A.A. SECRETARY REVIEWS PROGRESS

Strong in Numbers—Stronger still in Spirit

Padraic O'Keefe.

BEGUN just fifty years ago at a period in Irish history when the energy of the Irish people, as far as organisation was concerned, was mainly centred in political activities this national athletic body was set on foot with a twofold object: (1) the revival and development of national field games and national athletics; and (2) the union of such development with the ideal for full national expression, physical, political and intellectual.

Differences of opinion in Ireland existed in 1884 as they do to-day. Differences of opinion, it may safely be assumed, existed between the founders of the G.A.A., when after much preliminary work they met at Thurles in that historic year.

The beginning was small; but the foundations of the new movement were so carefully planned that the letter, written by the great Dr. Croke accepting the position of patron can still be regarded as the crystalised philosophy of the movement, and lives to this day as a justification of the organisation and its unchangeable policy.

Roughly speaking, the total membership of the Gaelic Athletic Association now reaches the 100,000 mark. Mainly composed of men between the ages of 18 and 35 it will be seen that it is the largest organised body of its kind, not only in Ireland, but in any other country even where the largest populations are to be found.

A Story of Struggle.

Prior to its foundation prominent ecclesiastics and prominent politicians gave prompt support to the idea of a virile national athletic movement which would draw its inspiration from within the land and which would help to stem the slavish anglicisation which proceeded apace for over a century. Unity on the fundamental issue of national athleticism was attained at once even where sharp differences of opinion existed on other matters. Charles Stewart Parnell, Justin McCarthy, William O'Brien, Michael Davitt, John O'Leary, Dr. Douglas Hyde, were amongst the early notable public men to extend support.

Surveying the progress from the "eighties" we find that there were 800 branches represented at the Convention held in the Courthouse, Thurles, in November, 1887. At that time the G.A.A. controlled field athletics as well as field games, and so athletic clubs were accorded similar representation to hurling and football clubs. Stormy years followed.

The Parnell split almost rent in twain the newly-formed athletic movement, but with the passing of time, even before the re-union of the main political parties, the G.A.A. had emerged virile and active once again.

The year 1894 saw an upward tendency towards recovery. Measured by the present-day standards the income of the Central Body—that year it was less than £150—must be taken as a fair index of the wasted state to which the national organisation had sunk as a result of the internecine story of the late "eighties." Even these small resources were hailed as a symptom of progress, and this year may be regarded as the turning point in the Association's chequered history. The following year saw the resources doubled, and in 1896 the income reached the hitherto untouched figure of £708. In 1897 the receipts passed the £1,000 mark for the first time, the subject of much jubilation.

The growing movement was not without its growing pains and loose organisation and disunion militated somewhat against progress. However, difficulties were removed with time and the inauguration of the Provincial Councils in Munster and Leinster in 1900 and in Connacht in 1902 made for closer attention to detail and provided methods of comparison between the newly-created provincial administration.

In 1903 the sum of £3,000 approximately, represented the receipts of the Central Council, and thenceforth there was all-round progress in clubs and membership. In 1913 the Association acquired its present headquarters and appropriately named the venue after the organisation's first illustrious patron.

Since the acquisition of Croke Park the organisation units throughout the Provincial Councils and County Boards have followed the headline, with the result that the Association now possesses forty grounds purchased, or in part purchased by the representative bodies.

The purchase of playing grounds is the settled policy of the Association.

Let me move from the question of organisation by recording that despite the fact that the athletic control was handed over by the G.A.A. to the N.A. and C.A. in 1922, the total number of clubs affiliated in the current year has reached the record total of 1,755 as compared with 355 in 1887. The membership approximates 100,000.

The G.A.A. Ideal.

Having briefly given the outlines of the Association's progress and strength I should, perhaps, say that the G.A.A. does not altogether measure its strength on such statistics or on the increasing numbers of persons who attend its important matches year after year, although such measurements are indicative of its growing popularity amongst the general Irish public. It looks more closely into realities.

It aims constantly at increasing the playing members of its organisation and is not content to have playing indulged in merely for the sake of the enjoyment which individuals derive from the exercise.

It sets before its members an ideal and a definite purpose; an ideal in which is enshrined in a free and prosperous Motherland; a purpose that this ideal must be eventually realised by the work of an organisation which inculcates a spirit of patriotism, discipline, and restraint into its young men. Great as its progress has been and satisfactory as its resources are, the real strength of the G.A.A. is derived from something much deeper and more potent. Its real strength is indefinable in ordinary terms of measurement. It is a binding tradition which is intertwined with the history and social life of the Gaelic race.

It is intertwined, too, with a spirit of joyous youthful memories, boyhood's happiest hours of natural physical struggle, sunlit days, green expansive sward—conquest.

The tinsel of mereticious modern substitutes can never wean away the masculine youth of Ireland, whilst an organisation sprung from such memories remains true to its tradition.

Not in Numbers Only . . . .

Before I conclude this brief review I should like to make just a passing reference to the Association's attitude to the swirling forces which at present agitate the public mind in this country, North and South. As I have said the Association touched low water level during the Parnell split. At that period the G.A.A. was young in years and experience, and with the impetuosity of youth was not always mindful of its proper goal. To-day the Association is strong, united and virile.

The platform is large and broad enough to accommodate all sections of Irishmen who love their country and who are desirous of working towards a really national Gaelic Ireland.

It believes its mission is to enrol the young manhood of the country on the Gaelic playing fields as the Gaelic League is desirous of enrolling the youth in the Gaelic League class-rooms and Céilidhe halls. Both these organisations work in perfect harmony, one the complement of the other. No member is questioned as to his political or sect affiliations. Our movement provides a common ground for effort and achievement in real national work—the preservation and development of racial character. Though we are strong in numbers and resources as I have said, we are stronger still in being conscious that we are the true interpreters of the Gaelic spirit of racial pride which our movement inculcates into the mind of the youth of Ireland.

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GREAT GALWAY BISHOP WHO SENT A DEPUTATION TO DR. CROKE

His countrymen have been hurling chiefs of Connaught in every year but one

By
Crimel

IN celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Gaelic Athletic Association Galway County has every reason to feel proud of the great part it has played in bringing the national athletic organisation into being and in the splendid services its manhood have rendered ever since in helping to build it up to its present triumphant position. It is not over stating the case but a fair assertion of truth to say that, although the Association found its birthplace in Thurles, Loughrea, where its birth and prospects were so fully discussed a short time before, was deprived of being its cradle by one of those accidents in history so often repeated and which so decisively change what seems to have been the settled course, or natural trend of events.

Had the Most Rev. Dr. Duggan, that splendid Churchman and patriot, who then filled the chair of the ancient diocese of Clonfert, been a younger man at the time it is almost certain that the Gaelic Athletic Association would be a little older than it is today, and that it would have made its bow to the country under the patronage of that revered and still well-remembered prelate.

The present generation cannot even with the aid of Bishop Duggan's biographer form anything like a full idea of the widespread veneration in which Bishop Duggan was held during his lifetime, both as priest and prelate. Truly "a man of the people and defender of the oppressed." As far back as the year 1873, Bishop Duggan in his stand by his people at the memorable Co. Galway Parliamentary Election in curred the wrath of that despicable political renegade, Judge Keogh, who cashed his principles for place.

The taunts and vulgar diatribe of this person against a beloved prelate only raised Bishop Duggan higher in the estimation of his people, who took it as an honour to bear the burden of the legal costs in which he was mulcted in their defence.

When the Land League came on in 1879 to challenge the roughshod aggressiveness of avaricious landlordism, Bishop Duggan encouraged it and gave it a help second to none in the country. When the Land League was suppressed by the British Government he was equally encouraging to the National League and did not flinch from the support of the tyrant-ridden tenant-farmers when making their fight for just consideration in the stormy days of the agitation under the "plan of campaign." He was an astute observer of men and matters and his judgment was ripened by the experiences of years. Always more of a real Nationalist than he was of a politician, he believed that the men who were the real strength and force in a nation's cause were the men who held firmly to the tenets of uncompromising Nationalist principles. "Never fall out with the extreme men," were his last words to William O'Brien, M.P., "they are called extreme because they are extremely right."

Such was the type of Churchman who guided his people from the See of Clonfert at the time when the young manhood of the country was beginning to respond to the new imperative urge for the resurgence of our national games and pastimes. Shortly after its formation the Dublin Metropolitan Hurling Club travelled by invitation across to Ballinasloe, where they gave a display against a Co. Galway team that aroused the greatest enthusiasm. Kilmore, an old stronghold of the national game, supplied Galway's team in this, the first inter-county and inter-provincial Hurling contest that had been played for nearly a century. The spectators were delighted with the game, and so was Cusack, who travelled with the Dublin men.

The match was unfinished and deferred to a future date, but it served its purpose well in arousing interest in hurling.

The obvious defect in the playing of this match was that there were no standardised rules for the governing of the game at Dublin, and Galway were guided by codes that differed in some important respects. Clearly the time was ripe for the starting of the new Irish Athletic Association, and the matter was discussed for weeks after in Galway and Dublin.

Call to Organise.

The persistent call for such an organisation founded and conducted on national lines was now articulate in different counties, and after some consultations in Dublin a deputation consisting of Michael Cusack, William J. Duffy (afterwards M.P.), J. P. McCarthy, John Sweeney (Loughrea), Peter J. Kelly (Kilmadeema) (afterwards President of the G.A.A.), James Lynam (Eyrecourt), and Michael Glennon (Kilchrest), waited on the Most Rev. Dr. Duggan on August 15th, 1884, at his residence in Loughrea, and requested him to become patron of the proposed Gaelic Athletic Association. His Lordship received the deputation with genuine Irish warmth and expressed his great pleasure on hearing of the movement to revive Ireland's native sports and pastimes through a real Irish Athletic Association. He was advanced in years, but his enthusiasm for the assertion and preservation of all the marks and traits of Irish nationality was as ardent as ever. He blessed the deputation and gave his blessing to their work, but he felt with regret that advancing years would debar him from being of any real use to what was primarily a young men's movement intended to fill a deplorable void in the life of the country.

Bishop Duggan believed that patrons should be active assets rather than figureheads in any movement.

He did not see how such a project as that outlined by the deputation could fail in its appeal to the manhood of the country, and repeated that years precluded him from giving the help he would like to engage in. "But," said he, "I can recommend you to a patriotic young clergyman, not very long arrived home in Ireland, appointed Archbishop of Cashel, who will be sure to help you with all the influence of a real patronage." The G.A.A. was virtually founded at that meeting.

Galway, went to the Final against Cavan, '33.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Hurling never died in Galway County, and neither did the old native game of Football, as the old municipal records of the county show. Even after the terrible years of the British-made famine period, Hurling revived itself in different parts of the county, and between the years 1854 and the rise of the Gaelic Athletic Association, there is plenty of evidence of Hurling in Galway County. The hurlers of Gort, who played the men of Offaly at Athlone (teams of 20 players aside) in August, 1854, were the men who revived Hurling in Galway, and the Golden Jubilee date of that event is gone past by more than another Golden Jubilee period of years.

Cusack knew Galway and its tenacity to national traditions, as he had a close acquaintance with the county during some years he spent there as private tutor to a well-known family.

Michael Cusack, Originator of the G.A.A.

With the spirit of such a past Galway rallied enthusiastically to the Gaelic Athletic Association. The first big gathering and game under the auspices of the G.A.A. took place on January 6th (Twelfth Day), 1885, in a big field at Feagh, near Tynagh, where Killimore defeated Ballinakill in a great Hurling test by 2 goals to nil. On Tuesday, February 16th, 1886, a team of South Galway hurlers played a splendid game in a match with the Gaels of North Tipperary. The merits of the play were very evenly divided, but Tipperary secured victory by annexing a goal, the only score made in the game that gave a further impetus to the G.A.A. in Dublin. The team that represented South Galway on that day was:—M. Markham, P. Farrell, J. Keehan, E. Triston, R. Grealish, E. Healy, R. Rock, M. Lynskey, J. Fitzgerald, M. Quinn, P. Nestor, M. O'Conner, J. Triston, F. Herbert, T. Kearns, M. Lennane, J. Sexton, F. Healy, M. Holloran, T. Morgan, E. Gourahan.

It was fitting that such two famous old Hurling counties as Tipperary and Galway should meet in the first G.A.A. All-Ireland Hurling Championship Final.

On the way to the final Galway disposed of the much-fancied Wexford County team, from the fine old Hurling centre, Castlebridge.

The Meelick hurlers, who very decisively upheld the honour of Galway on that day, played in most convincing style and won by a formidable score. Tipperary had disposed of Clare and afterwards defeated Kilkenny, so the final was anxiously awaited. Thurles represented the "premier" county. The final was played before a big attendance of spectators at Birr on Easter Sunday, April 1st, 1888. It was a stubbornly contested match right through, and ended in a hard-won victory for Tipperary on the full-time score of 1 goal 1 point and 1 forfeit point to nil. The team that represented Galway in this first All-Ireland Hurling Final were:—

Pat Larkin (Kiltormer), John Mannion (Killimore), Owen Griffen (do.), Thomas Foley (do.), Michael Conway (do.), Michael Kieley (do.), John Mannion (do.), Patrick Haverty (do.), James Haverty (do.), Martin Griffin (do.), John Cosgrove (Meelick), Arthur Cosgrove (do.), Michael Cullen (do.), Thomas Hanley (do.), Michael Hanley (do.).

Late Organisation.

Galway County was one of the best organised districts in Ireland for the Association, where it included a great portion of young Irishmen animated by the principles of unswerving nationalist fealty to fixed principles. Many of them, like the late Pat Larkin, of Kiltormer, took part in the work of overthrowing the oppression of Irish landlordism. When the young Mayo athlete, P. W. Nally, was done to death in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, in 1891, the Galway Gaels, many of whom knew him before his conviction in 1883, were prominent at the big public funeral accorded to all that was mortal of the martyred patriot. Mr. Peter J. Kelly, who was then President of the Board, headed his county men, who bore a beautiful wreath as a tribute from Galway men. The inscription read, "*From his old colleagues and loving friends, the Gaels of Galway.*" The other County Board representatives were J. P. McCarthy, Co. Vice-President; Andrew

(Continued on Page 46).

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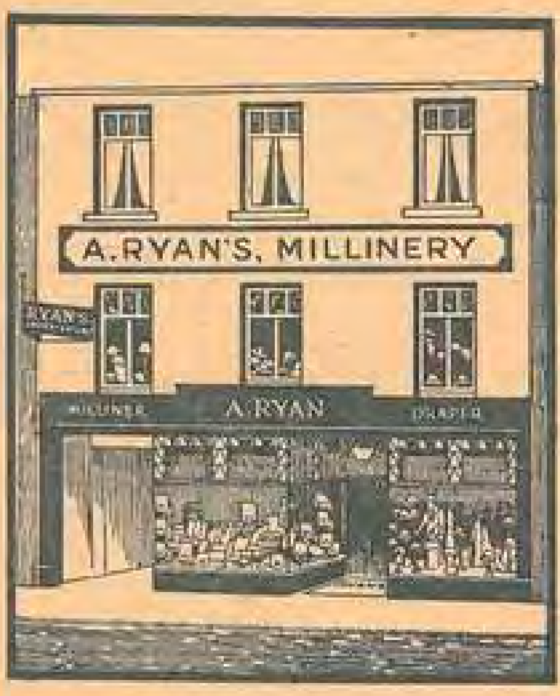

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Tuilleaṁ eoluis le fágail ó Ṁeaḋránaiḋe an Ċoláiste.

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THEIR FIRST GAMES WERE for LAND LEAGUE PRISONERS

Seven teams played for a sheep—and ten for a pony!

THE history of the G.A.A. in Clare is a record of loyal adherence to the aims, objects and ideals of the association. Truly of the Gael, and racy of the soil, the constitution and the ideals of the new association appealed in such an effective manner to the hearts of the men of Clare, that soon after its foundation its banner was firmly planted on the soil of Corca Baiscinn, and clubs under its auspices were started in many parts of the county. The first, or at least one of the first hurling matches played in Clare after the Thurles meeting was played in Mr. Martin Daly's field in Lifford, near Ennis, the contestants being the *A. M. Sullivan* Club, Ennis, and the *Tulla* Club. The match was won by Tulla. Peter Burke, M. Logan, M. Carmody, Thomas Fahy, and P. Lyons were prominent members of the *A. M. Sullivan* team, while M. Corry, M. O'Dea, T. Coghlan, D. McKenna and M. Moloney were among the *Tulla* team of those days. Some short time subsequently, a hurling tournament was held at Shessive, Toonagh, near Ennis. The competing teams were Ennis *A. M. Sullivans,* Ennis *Faughs, Corofin, Barefield, Kilmaley, Dysert* and *Kilnamona.* The tournament was won by *Kilnamona,* to whom was awarded the prize—a fat sheep.

Supporting the Prisoners.

It happened that at this time a number of Clarecastle carters were imprisoned in Limerick Gaol. Their offence was that they refused to cart coal and other goods for the R.I.C. huts, which owing to the intensity of the agrarian campaign in Clare were very numerous throughout the county. A proposal that the sheep be handed over to the wives and families of the imprisoned carters met with universal approval. A ceremony was attached to the handing over, and if time and space permitted many humourous stories in relation to this tournament and the prize could be related. About this time, too, the original *Dalcassian* football club was founded. I write subject to correction, but I think that its first captain was the late Mr. James Hayes, photographer of O'Connell St., Ennis (then Jail St.). Other prominent members were the late Dan O'Looney, P. Aherne, and T. Casey, and they played their first match in Mr. James O'Loghlan's field in Doora. Newmarket on Fergus Dalgais were prominent on the football field at this time, as were also Kildysert and several other Western clubs. The association made good progress, and in 1886 we find a *Tulla* team representing Clare at Jones's Road as it was then. Tulla was defeated by a Dublin team.

Their defeat was due to the fact that they played in their bare feet on a slippery soil!

Clare Hurlers, 1932.

Each member of the Dublin team wore shoes or slippers. These were unknown to the Clare Gaels of those early days and hurling "with boots off," as it was termed, was the prevailing custom in Clare.

Pony for Prize.

O'Gonnelloe produced a crack team in those days and the principal hurling teams in the county were *O'Gonnelloe, Tulla,* Ennis *Faughs, Bodyke, Ruan, Kilnamona, Barefield* and *Killenena.* The keenest rivalry lay between *Tulla* and the Ennis *Faughs.* Tulla was a formidable team, but they feared the Ennis men, and the matches between them in those days were regarded as the classical events of the hurling branch of the association in Clare. In between the championships, a hurling tournament was held in Ruan. The prize was a pony, presented by the people of Ruan parish. The competing teams were Ruan, Corofin, Barefield, Dysert, Kilmaley, Crusheen, Killenena, Kilnamona, Clooney and Ennis Faughs. After a series of gruelling contests the final lay between Ennis and Killenena, and after a terrific struggle, resulted in a draw. As the result of a consultation between both teams, it was agreed to play extra time, and after an exciting 30 minutes of ground hurling, attended by fierce and terrible rushes on both sides, the Ennis men were declared the victors. Among the Ennis men were Matt Ryan, Jack Casey, Martin Moloney, M. Coffey, P. Gilligan, Stephen Kenny, M. Leyden, Harry Moloney, M. Guerin, and J. Kennedy. The complete list of names of the Killenena team cannot be traced, but the most prominent player thereon was a be-whiskered giant who dominated the play for a great portion of the game. Now we come to Carrahan in 1888. The series of contests played at this venue were brimful of enthusiasm and enthralling in the extreme. The final lay between *Tulla* and Ennis *Faughs.* The first match ended in a draw and the second encounter ended in a victory for *Tulla.*

The Old Sad Story.

And now emigration began to exact its toll. The teams which had been foremost in spreading enthusiasm became attenuated through the medium of the emigrant ship and for a short time a lull ensued. This was not to last long, for from the effective work which had been done, and the enthusiasm created, there sprang into being spontaneously and effectively the great revival which gave us *Tulla, O'Gonnelloe, Bodyke, Feakle, Clooney, Barefield, Kilbane, Clonlara, O'Brien's Bridge, Ennis* and *Kilnamona.*

By

George Mulvey

The *Tulla* team contained some of the men who had done duty on the old team most notable being the late Tom Coghlan, afterwards Chairman of the Clare County Board. The *Ennis* team were succeeded by a younger generation of *Faughs,* prominent amongst them being Frank Moloney, Pako Malone, Tom Clohessy, Steve Kenny, S. MacNamara, P. MacNamara, P. O'Grady.

A combination of the Tulla-Bodyke-O'Callaghan's Mills-Kilbane and Feakle teams defeated all comers, including the famous Tubberadora, and brought the Croke Cup to Clare.

The same combination were narrowly defeated by Tubberadora for the Munster final. The match was played at Kilmallock. Those who were famous in the great Clare team of the day were Tom and Jack Coughlan, Paddy King, Jim, Ned and Martin Corry, P. O'Neill, "Teapot" Meehan, Burns, Davis, and "Scooper" MacMahon, as well as Matt Ryan, all of Tulla. Then there was Tommy Lynch, N.T.; P. O'Dea and Jack Kelly, of the Mills; Joe Doherty, N.T., and Jack Conway, of Bodyke; Jack Larkin, of Kilbane; Jack Moloney, Glandree; W. Dinan, Annaghneale; M. Cooney, Glandree, and T. Henchy, of Feakle.

Tulla and Ennis *Faughs* met at Carrahan for the final of the 1903 championship. The parish rule not being then in force, Tulla made an exhaustive pick, including P. O'Brien, O'Callaghan's Mills, and "Ducky" Crowe, of Bodyke. *Tulla* won a gruelling game and making inter-county selection, met and were defeated by *Kilfinnane* at Green Park racecourse, Limerick. *Kilfinnane* won the All-Ireland final of the year. This now brings us to the days of P. Culloo, Jack Lawerence, Fred, Harry and Joe Power, Jack Moroney, Willie Considine, P. Shaloo, Kirk Lyons, M. McDonnell.

Many gruelling inter-county contest were played in the years which intervened between the defeat at Green Park and the winning of the 1914 All-Ireland final.

Con Kearney, of Carrahan, was secretary during all these years. Tom Sheedy, of Barefield; the O'Sullivan

Clare Abbey.

brothers, Ruan; F. Mack, Crusheen; Kirk Lyons, Frank Hegarty, M. McDonnell, Kilnamona; P. Kenny, Ennis, and Jack Moroney, of Kilmore, played for Clare during the same years. Through one cause or another Clare hurling could not succeed against Cork or Tipperary, and did not make any headway until the advent of the successful team in 1914.

The succeeding events belong to modern history, with which most of the present day Gaels are conversant.

DEPUTATION TO DR. CROKE

(*Continued from Page 44*).

Manning, Co. Board Treasurer; Michael Silver, Co. Secretary.

The Gaelic Athletic Association firmly established itself in the congenial soil of Galway from the start.

It can be truly said that the G.A.A. did not bring the games to Galway, but that the game brought the G.A.A. to Galway.

Where the G.A.A. with its founding was so much concerned with athletics more than games, Galway, though having athletic talent galore, kept the games of the Gael to the forefront of the programme. Peterswell succeeded Meelick as Galway County Hurling Champions in 1889, and regained the title in 1890, and again in 1904-5-7. Ardrahan held the title in 1894-6 and in 1901-3. In 1902 Ardrahan brought Galway into the All-Ireland Hurling Championship, and were runners-up to Tipperary. Other great Hurling combinations in these earlier days came from Craughwell, Gort, Killimore, Mullagh, Woodford and Tynagh. In 1924 Galway captured All-Ireland Hurling Championship honours from Limerick amid a scene of great enthusiasm at Croke Park, Dublin. In the following year they were "runners-up" to Dublin, and in the next year they were "runners-up" to Tipperary. In the year 1928-9 they were beaten in the final by Cork, but Galway goes on gamely.

With the single exception of the year 1906, Galway has held the Senior Hurling Championship of Connacht.

In Football Galway has always been foremost Dunmore were first County Champions in 1887, and held the championship many years. Tuam, Athenry, Ballinasloe, Loughrea, have all produced fine Football combinations. In 1919 Galway made a good bid against Kildare for All-Ireland Senior Football honours, and again in 1922, when they were beaten by 2 points by Dublin. In 1925 there was an unsatisfactory finish of the final ties in Ulster, Munster and Leinster, and Galway were declared Champions. In 1933 they made a fine fight for the same honours against Cavan before the largest attendance that ever assembled at Croke Park. Galway won the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship in 1931. Galway has, of course, annexed a fine amount of Connacht Football Championships.

Like other counties, the G.A.A. has had its ups and downs in Galway, but, as in other counties, it is stronger here than ever to-day. In teams of hurlers and football players, and men to direct the councils of the Gael, as well as in athletics, Galway has contributed generously to the progress of the G.A.A.

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Thurles Sees The Triumph It Began

GOLDEN JUBILEE GREETED BY THE WORLD

"THE G.A.A. HAS JUSTIFIED ITSELF"

THE following is an account of the proceedings at Thurles on Easter Sunday, 1934, when the leaders of the G.A.A. met to celebrate the coming of the fiftieth year of the Association's life and to reckon the prospects of the future.

MANY public bodies and also the Gaelic League presented addresses. Messages from His Eminence Cardinal MacRory and Mr. de Valera paid high tribute to the work and members of the organisation. The delegates attended a special High Mass in the Cathedral, at which Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, presided. Dr. Harty afterwards unveiled a plaque to the memory of the founders of the Association.

At a luncheon which followed, Mr. Michael Cusack, a son of the late Michael Cusack, one of the founders, and Mr. T. Dooley, a 92-year-old veteran supporter, were guests.

The proceedings opened at the Confraternity Hall, where the delegates were received by Mr. Seán MacCarthy, B.A., President of the G.A.A., who later presided at the presentation of addresses. Addresses were presented on behalf of the following associations, organisations, and public bodies: Gaelic League, Tipperary Co. Committee G.A.A., North Tipperary Co. Council, Cashel U.D.C., Nenagh U.D.C., Thurles U.D.C., and Thurles G.A.A. Club.

ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE AT THURLES.

Seán Og O Ceallaigh read an address from the Gaelic League.

Mr. J. J. Horgan, on behalf of the Irish National Association, Glasgow, conveyed heartiest greetings from Gaels in Scotland. The deliberations that day would be of much importance to Scotland because with their decision rested whether Scotland would become affiliated to the G.A.A.

Mr. J. Collins, on behalf of the G.A.A., Great Britain, also congratulated the Association.

Mr. J. Quane, on behalf of the American Gaelic Association and the Eastern Division of the New York Governing Body, conveyed fraternal greetings.

Message Of The Cardinal.

His Eminence Cardinal MacRory wrote regretting inability to attend. In an accompanying letter his Eminence said that the G.A.A. and its kindred organisations had done a great work for Ireland's soul.

The Gaelic movement had still a good deal of work before it; but what it had already achieved is abundant guarantee for the future. He hoped it would never lend countenance to anything that might impair the modesty of our youth.

It was fine to have our ancient games and dances; but it was finer still for God and for Ireland to have fresh and unimpaired the traditional modesty of the Irish maiden. He believed that those at the head of the movement would always come to realize this; and hence he hoped that a movement that had done so much to brighten life and make the past live again would continue to go on from success to success.

The following message was received from **Mr. E. de Valera,** President of the Executive Council:—

> **"Thar cheann Rialtais an t-Saorstát deinim comhgháirdeachas le Cumann Luith-Chleas Gaedheal de bhrigh go bhfuil an chéad chaogad blian dá shaoghal slán aige.**
>
> **"Pé dul ár aghaidh atá deanta ag Eirinn ó 1884, tá a lán dá bhuidheachas ag dul do lucht bunuighthe an Chumainn.**
>
> **"Ba mhór an taca do'n tir agus do chúis na náisuintachta é. Muna mbeadh é is ar éigin a dheadh an neart ag Gaedhealaibh atá aca i láthair na h-uaire ná an dóchas ata aca go mbuanófar an Gaedealachas i n-ár measc.**
>
> **"Is maith liom gur féidir a rádh go bfuil an Cumann níos treise anois ná riamh agus gur mó ná riamh an chabhair is féidir do a thabhairt i n-obair Gaedhealuighthe na tíre. Is maith liom go mór mhór go bfuil lucht an Chumainn lan-phairteach i ngluaiseacht na teangan. Tá suil agam nach fada anois go mbeidh an Ghaedhilg i réim i gcúrsaí luthaidheachta i n-Eirinn.**
>
> **"Gura fada buan an Cumann agus toradh a chuid oibre!"**

Most Rev. Dr. M. Cullen, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and An Craoibhín also sent messages.

Exile's Message.

A letter was received on behalf of the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, formally intimating that the Executive Council had directed the issue of a special commemoration postage stamp in honour of the G.A.A. Golden Jubilee.

Very Rev. T. P. Leahy, P.S.M., Rector, St. Patrick's College, Buenos Aires, wrote that his College and the Provincial Federation of Hurling of which it was the Alma Mater, sent congratulations.

The Very Rev. A. M. Canning, P.S.M., Rector, Fahy Institute, Buenos Aires, offered congratulations in the name of 120 boy pupils of Irish descent.

The Argentine Hurling Federation cabled cordial greetings.

Mr. A. Scally, Secretary, Fahy Boys' Hurling and Social Club, Buenos Aires, wrote that they had kept hurling flourishing for 34 years in Argentine.

Mr. D. F. Cummins, Secretary, G.A.A., San Francisco, Cal., also extended congratulations.

The President, speaking in Irish, thanked the bodies who had presented addresses and sent messages.

It was encouraging to know that they had the support of the Government.

He referred to the work done for the language by Dr. Douglas Hyde.

They were deeply grateful for the Cardinal's message and returned sincerest thanks on behalf of the Gaels of Ireland.

The Irish race abroad had stood more faithfully to their own land than, perhaps, any other race on earth.

The Unveiling.

Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, presided at High Mass in the Cathedral at twelve o'clock, which was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Fogarty, C.C., Thurles. The deacon and sub-deacon were Rev. Fr. McGowran, O.M.I., and Rev. Fr. Hamilton, C.C.

The masters of ceremonies were Rev. Fr. Holloway, St. Patrick's College, Thurles; Rev. T. O'Rourke, do.; and Rev. Fr. O'Dea, B.D., Galway. The Archbishop's assistant deacons were:—Rev. J. J. Ryan, Adm., and Rev. Fr. Cooke, President of St. Patrick's College, Thurles, and Rev. T. O'Connor, C.C.

The Apostolic Blessing and Plenary Indulgence was imparted to the congregation.

The Parade.

After Mass a parade was formed and, led by fife and drum and pipers' bands, filed to Liberty Square. Marching in the procession were contingents of the local Christian Brothers boys, dressed in their school colours and carrying national trophies won by the county teams. Members of the county camogie, football and hurling clubs with delegate representatives from all the counties formed the remainder of the procession. At the fore walked the Archbishop of Cashel with local clergy and accompanied by members of the Central Council of the G.A.A.

Arrived at a platform erected outside Hayes' Hotel, His Grace, who was introduced by Mr. MacCarthy, was enthusiastically received. Walking under an arch of hurleys, he proceeded to the front of Hayes' Hotel, where

PATRON, PRESIDE
ADDRESS

IN the historic town of Thurles, decorated for the his
its Golden Jubilee on Easter Sunday, April 1st.
of Ireland and many addresses were presented.

The day's celebrations began with High Mass, a
Croke, presided. The Cathedral was thronged wit
religious ceremony a procession was formed in whic
accompanied by many clergy and by members of the
the trophies their teams had won, and schoolboys ma
Rev. Dr. Harty spoke of the support given by Parnel
culture of the founders of that great Association.

At the Congress luncheon there were include
Cusack, a son of Michael Cusack, the most famou
narian, who has been attached to the Associati
which sat in the Confraternity Hall, messages we
the world. Mr. de Valera greeted the Association
letter full of admiration and praise for the great
delegates from overseas were representatives of A
of congratulation were received from the Irish i

In his address, the President of the Association, M
of the Association, and in reply to the question: "Ha
pose?" said: "Whether reckoned by strength of num
size and number of our playing fields, by its hold on p
believe the G.A.A. has fully justified itself, and not onl
its founders and heroes indwell in the place where th
toleration amongst Irishmen. "Differences in thoug
honour of the land we love, I appeal to-day for the elim

Mr. Padraig O Caoimh's (the Secretary) R
strength of the Association. In 1933, 1,748 clu
increase of just under 700 since 1924. The atte
records, and the financial position of the Associati
grown in vitality and stature, and the G.A.A. stan
Ireland and keep it true to its destiny. God spe

During the day a plaque to commemorate the est
in the room where the founders met in 1884. It wa
mittees should have power to reinstate all suspended

Seven Delegates in 1884

SECTION OF THE

2,000 Clubs Represented At Congress

SECRETARY TELLS OF RECORD PROGRESS

"beannaċt Dé ar an obair"

NT and SECRETARY ASSEMBLY

ric occasion, the Gaelic Athletic Association celebrated
Two hundred delegates came to Thurles from all parts

which His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Harty, successor to Dr.
delegates and members of the Association. After the
many bands took part. At the head was the Archbishop,
A.A. Central Council. Players carried their hurleys and
hed in the school colours. In a moving address, Most
and Davitt, and of the magnificent work for national

among many distinguished guests Mr. Michael
of the seven founders, and Mr. T. Dooley, a nonage-
since its inauguration. At the Congress itself,
read to the assembled delegates from all parts of
n a message in Irish, and Cardinal MacRory in a
onal work accomplished by the G.A.A. Among the
erica, Scotland and Great Britain. Several cables
he Argentine.

Sean McCarthy, B.A., traced the history and progress
the G.A.A. spread its wings and lived true to its pur-
rs, by prowess and agility, by financial support, by the
ular esteem, or by the quality of its national spirit, I
s it increasing in power and influence, but the spirit of
lived." He concluded his address by an appeal for more
and policy there are bound to be," he said, "but for the
ation of bitterness from the public affairs of the nation."

rt read to the Congress showed the extraordinary
were affiliated, an increase of 60 since 1932 and an
nce at the finals in Croke Park had broken all
was very strong. "Gaelic Ireland," he said, "has
like a mountain fortress to guard the manhood of
the cause."

lishment of the Association was unveiled at Hayes' Hotel,
decided that in celebration of the Congress, County Com-
nbers except those under the foreign games rules.

ONG OF DELEGATES,

200 Delegates in 1934

he unveiled the plaque commemorating the seven founders of the Association.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of "Faith of Our Fathers" and the National Anthem.

"We are assembled here to-day," said His Grace, "to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the G.A.A. which was founded fifty years ago at a meeting that was held in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles. The principal founders of the Association were Michael Cusack and Maurice Davin. Cusack was born in Co. Clare.

"In his early days he was a national teacher and thus belonged to a body of men who have done great work for the G.A.A.

Discipline.

"His object in founding the Association was concerned primarily with the revival of our Irish pastimes, but secondarily with the creation of a disciplined and self-respecting Irish nation.

"Dr. Croke, Parnell and Michael Davitt gave," His Grace continued, "their approval and support to Davin and Cusack and became the first patrons of the young Association. In accepting the position of patron, Dr. Croke wrote the magnificent letter that has rightly been called the charter of the Association. That still arouses the enthusiasm of all who hear it. A national movement for freedom from oppression helped to create an atmosphere that was highly advantageous to the aims of Cusack and Davin.

"The revival of Irish games did not come alone, but brought with it ample proofs of its high cultural value.

"It brought with it a new spirit and a new outlook in Irish life. Self-respect, discipline, a sense of fair play, manliness, followed in its train. A greater love of Ireland and its traditions arose side by side with the revival of the Irish games.

"Dr. Douglas Hyde tells us that this Association paved the way for the Gaelic League."

Mr. MacCarthy proposed a vote of thanks to His Grace, which was seconded by **Mr. W. P. Clifford,** Chairman of the Munster Council.

The inscription on the plaque was: G.A.A. 1934. 'San arús so iseadh do bunuigheadh Cumann Lúith Cleas Gaedheal LÁ Samhna, 1884.

Founder's Son.

At lunch, which followed in Hayes' Hotel, the guests included **Mr. Ml. Cusack,** a son of the late Ml. Cusack, one of the founders, and **Mr. T. Dooley,** a 92-year-old supporter, who, from the inauguration was connected actively with the Association, and was for a number of years Secretary of the Munster Council.

The toast of Eire having been honoured, **Rev. Fr. Maher,** Chairman of the Tipperary Co. Board, proposed the toast of the G.A.A., and coupled with it the names of Messrs. Dooley and Cusack.

Rev. Fr. Lee (M.J.L.), seconded, and Messrs. Dooley and Cusack responded. A toast to the Press, proposed by the General Secretary, **Mr. P. O Caoimh,** was responded to by **Mr. P. Mehegan** (Carberry).

Afterwards the annual Congress opened in the Confraternity Hall. The 200 delegates knelt for the blessing of Dr. Harty. As his Grace left the delegates rose and sang "Faith of Our Fathers" and "The Soldier's Song."

Tributes were paid to Mr. P. O'Keeffe (Secretary) on the comprehensive report submitted by him.

President's Address.

Mr. S. MacCarthy, B.A., began his presidential address in Irish.

Chuir sé failte roimh na daoine a bhí bailighthe ó chúig árdaibh na hEireann. Chuir sé fáilthe is fiche leis roimh na cáirde a thánaig thar farraige anall.

"Ba cheart agus ba chóir dúinn," arsa sé, "áthas croidhe a bheith orrainn indiu,

mar tá cluithchí agus cuspóir na nGaedheal a bhí i mbéal báis caogad bliain ó soin, táid níos beomhaire agus níos bríoghmhaire agus níos láidre an lá indiu ná mar do bhíodar riamh.

"Ar ócáid mar i seo, cuimhnighimís ar na laochraidh calma a bhunaigh Cumann Luithchleas Gaedheal annso i nDúrlas Eile leath-chéad bhliain ó shoin agus a chuir dóchas arís i gcroidhe ár máthar, Eire.

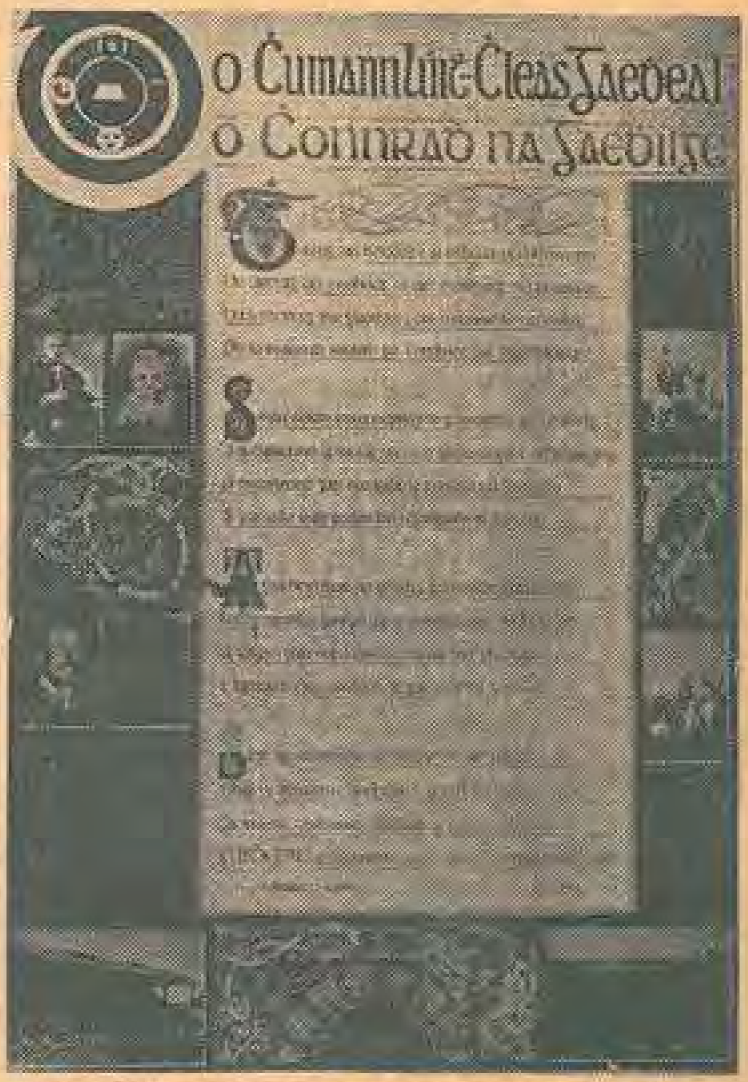
"Bíodh misneach 'nár gcroidhthibh agus neart 'nár gcuisleannaibh! a cháirde. Is ag dul ar aghaidh i dtreise i gcomhacht a bheith luichthí ár sinnsear chun fuinneamh do chur i gcroidhthibh na n-aosóg ar son saoirse agus náisiúntachta na hEireann!"

Mr. McCarthy concluded:—"In the fifty years of its chequered history the G.A.A. has successfully weathered many storms and though beset by trials and difficulties, it held together in brotherly harmony the great masses of the Irish people.

"The home of the Gael has been the rallying centre where he fashioned his hurley and prepared his frame for the honour of the little village, with the local traditions and the games of his fathers as the propelling momentum. Surely there is no room for rancour here.

"And what is the use of all the striving, if by our own acts, we retard or belittle the just cause and the fair name of our motherland.

"Differences in thought and policy there are bound to be, but for the honour of the land we love, I appeal to-day for the elimination of bitterness from the public affairs of the nation."



GAELIC LEAGUE'S GREETINGS TO G.A.A.

"ENTHUSED BY TRADITIONS"

REFERRING to his visit to the United States on the occasion of the last Kerry tour, the General Secretary bears testimony to the desire there to draw still closer the links binding the Gaels abroad and at home, and details the steps taken in America to place the G.A.A. there upon a firmer foundation. The progress of the movement amongst the Gaels of Scotland, in England, South Africa and the Argentine is also recorded.

The review then takes up affairs at home, which are dealt with in many pregnant paragraphs, amongst them the following:—

Derelict Areas.

"This progress abroad brings me back to the problems calling for our immediate attention—for we still have constructive work to do.

"There have been increases of clubs, but there is still room for more in derelict areas and for intensive organisation amongst those which exist. The repression of indiscipline, the elimination of pettiness and the lifting of the standard of both games are objectives still in front of us.

"Gaels belong to no conscript body—they are Gaels at heart or not at all; enthused by the traditions and the merits of the pastimes they have inherited, and those pastimes are worthy, as none others can ever be, of the best each Gael can give them.

"Any contemporary survey of our movement must take heed of the future, and the future is present with us in the ranks of our school-going population at all stages of its progress towards manhood and citizenship.

"We cannot allow the allegiance of our children to be lured away from the ideals and practice of their distinctive racial pastimes and traditions, and we can only safeguard their future by protecting them now."

ALL THE "THRESHERS" WANTED WAS A LEADER

Dr. Croke gave his Fighting Spirit to "Magnificent Tipperary."

By "Cathedral Town"

PRECEDING historic '84, genuine and sports-loving Irishmen must have had a feeling akin to that of the exiled Hebrews by the waters of Babylon, and if proof of such is required, it is found in the sadness personified in the "Convict of Clonmel." Is the same thing not also a conclusion from the cheers of triumph, and the general rejoicing, that followed the lifting of the clouds, the mobilisation of the Gael, and the start of the Gaelic Athletic Association?

Of the "trio" responsible for so heaven-sent a change, the palm must of necessity go to Dr. Croke. The Cashel Prelate saw before his eyes the rotting of a noble race, and with voice and pen he set himself to stop it. That fighting spirit of his he communicated to the manhood of Tipperary. All the "threshers" wanted was a leader. In they went to the thick of the fight.

Tipperary gave the Association not only its first Patron, but also its first President. We are told by Michael Cusack "that there was no one more capable for the position." He could even have added—"there was no one more worthy than the elder brother of the greatest athletic family that the world ever produced—the Davins of Deerpark." Maurice gave the Association its original rules, and for years watched its progress, from his pleasant home on the Suir. All activity, but not a "blow-horn," Mr. Davin has left us ignorant of the true extent of his work. Kickham's county has had many athletes, some of them world-renowned; Mitchell of Emly, Kiely of Ballyneale, Stokes of Kilsheelan, Carroll of Aherlow, Ryan of New Inn, Holloway of Bansha, Phelan of Mullinahone, McGrath and Hayes of Nenagh, Fahy of Galbally, Burke of Cappa, Crowe of Dundrum, and Ryan of Drumline. How much of their success is due to Maurice Davin's tutoring is unknown, just because the tutor wished it so! It is when we write of hurling and football, and especially of the former, that the soul of Tipperary comes rushing in. Down the years she has been there, firm and stately, like the oak of the forest. Our greatest hurlers have been found in Tubberadora, Horse and Jockey, Twomileborris, Thurles, Toomevara, and Boherlahan.

No Greater Than Tubberadora.

Praise for Tubberadora comes unbidden to our lips, a greater team no county can boast of. Who will find us men to compare with the Mahers, the Scanlons, or Walsh's; with Connolly, Byrne, Ryan, Devane or Brennan? Tubberadora's mantle fell on the 'Jockey, and then on 'Borris, the three clubs of fighting Moycarkey,

giving us the huge total of five All-Ireland's in a period of six years.

How the memory of those days clings. At the 'Jockey they talk yet of Wall, and Condon; of the Gleesons and the O'Keeffe's. In 'Borris of Ned and Paddy Hayes, of "Best," of the Purcells and of Allen; of Carrick-on-Suir, where they scored seventeen points against the pick of Leinster, in fifteen minutes.

In the noon-day of its success, Tipperary hurling received a blow in 1900, but the banner was raised again in the days of Tom Semple, and the "Blues" of Thurles—

> *"The honours of All Ireland we have not sought in vain;*
> *Oh splendid team, great seventeen, Tipperary Boys again!"*

More of this renowned combination were: the Fitzgeralds of Glengoole, Burke of Kylecrue, Burke of Twomileborris, Mockler of the 'Jockey, O'Dwyer of Holy Cross, and Mockler, Shelly, Connolly, Brolan, O'Brien, Mooney, and Kerwick, of Thurles.

"But for the Tans!"

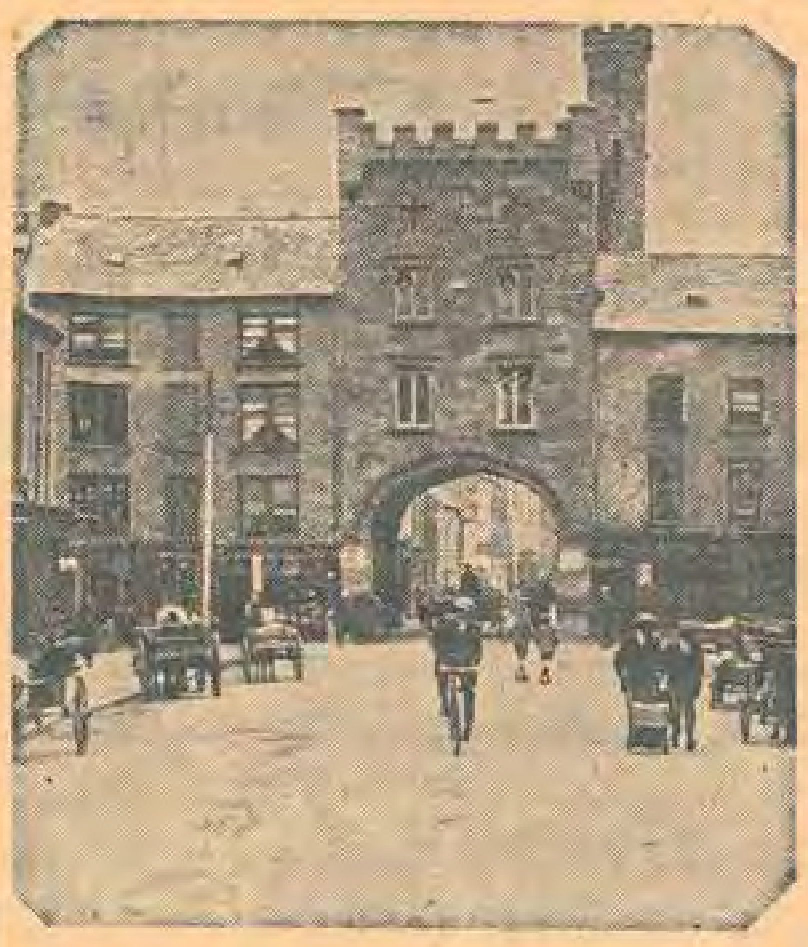
The next to appear were the Toom "Greyhounds," a team of neat and polished hurlers, who hold high rank in the annals of fame. The notables of the company were: "Wedger" Meagher, Frank McGrath, the O'Meara's, Collinsons, Kelly, Harty, Guilmartin, and Hackett. Though the "Greyhounds" hammered home superiority on many opponents, there must always remain the regret—they failed to honour the old village with the "blue riband," and in that they have our sympathy.

Where Toom failed, Boherlahan—trained and marshalled by the well-known Johnny Lahy—succeeded. After an eight years' lapse, Lahy took Tipperary to the head of the pedestal in historic 1916.

That he has not left behind him a longer trail of baffled foes, is in no small measure due to the "Black and Tans."

His men were of the real Tipperary brand—in spirit, in courage, and in vitality. They were among the best we have seen in the rare old days. The "gifted" amongst them, in addition to the captain and his brothers, would be the Powers, O'Dwyers, and O'Donnells, Doherty and Nagle from Boherlahan, Murphy, Fitzpatrick, Mockler, Hayes, Ryan and Spillane from Moycarkey; Cahill of Holy Cross, Shanahan of Ballinure, the Darcy brothers of Nenagh, and Martin Kennedy of Toom.

Tipp. wore the victor's palm for the last time in 1930, when startling achievements took place, and a record set up that age cannot wither. The senior, junior, and minor hurling championships were won in a manner that has not a parallel in the fifty years' existence of the Association. In the senior the greatest credit goes to Treacy, Purcell, Callanan, O'Meara and McKenna. Tipperary hurling power seems to assert itself in cycles, and the question of the moment is—when shall the next cycle appear?



A Gateway in Clonmel.

In football the warmest homage of our hearts goes out to the men of Bohercrowe, Arravale Rovers, Clonmel Shamrocks, Grangemockler and Fethard. Why, I don't know—perhaps it is because of Willie Ryan and Bob Quane—but Tipperary Gaeldom recalls more blissful memories, connected with the Rovers than with any of the other clubs. Where footballers are mentioned one hears of the Tobins of Clonmel, Wall of Carrick, the Quanes, Ryans, and Connery of Arravale, the Egans of Mullinahone, the O'Sheas of Fethard, Grant, the Ryans, and Carroll of Templemore, and the Cooneys and Shelly of Grangemockler.

Then there is another memory . . . of a day in Croke Park . . . and the machine-guns mowing . . . and a lad of Tipperary lying with his blood sanctifying her colours.

But in another place you read—and remember . . .

True Successors.

Concluding, we offer our congratulations and thanks to everybody who has helped to build up our reputation in the realm of sport. We do not forget to include His Grace Archbishop Harty, whose high ideals and love for ancient culture constitutes him a true successor of the Gael's first Patron. We are delighted to find our youth still clinging to the old ideals, as it gives us opportunity to say, that Irish chivalry and Irish patriotism have, as ever, a real home in Tipperary. With Ireland we unite in celebrating the Jubilee of the Association, and in regard to it, we lay down our pen with the ,words, *Prospere Procede, et Regna.*

Tipperary's team who beat all opponents in U.S.A.

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Tipp takes the field with New York Selected

Tipperary's Triumphant March Across the Rockies

Father Lee, who was with them in their all-conquering tour, describes the great victories, the thrilling scenes of arrivals and departures, and the meetings and greetings with exiled Ireland.

IT is now some three years since the boys of the Premier County made their tour of America. It was in the Autumn of 1931. They were then the hurling champions of Ireland: yes! champions in the fullest sense in which that word can be used, for they had as yet maintained their treble crown of glory, won the previous year by their astounding and unique success in all three grades of the game. The year 1930 saw Tipperary win the Minor, Junior and Senior Hurling Championships of Ireland. It is little wonder, then, that an invitation should come to them from the Gaels of New York to make a Hurling Tour of the United States. When one pauses to consider the vastness of such a project and the difficulties it entails, we naturally wonder how it all happened. The surprising, however, did happen, and with remarkable smoothness and success.

The tour was sponsored by Mr. D. Breen, T.D., who was then in New York. He was ably assisted by Messrs. Connie Nealon, of Cork; Pete Landy, of Grangemockler, and Tommy Armitage, of Templemore, all of whom were in America.

The Embarkment.

We left Cobh on the 8th September, 1931. There were some twenty-five or six of us all together, under the supreme chaplaincy of Very Rev. John J. Meagher, of Thurles, Chairman of Co. Tipperary G.A.A. Captain John J. Leahy, veteran skipper of old Tipperary hurling days, was chief manager, while John Joe Callanan, of Thurles, was captain, and Jimmy O'Loughlin, of Thurles, vice-captain of the team. The other members were:—Jack Stapleton, Tommy Butler, John Maher, Jimmie Lanigan, Jimmie Harney, Michael Ryan, John Ryan, and Jimmie Connolly (R.I.P.) of Thurles; Paul and John McKenna, of Borrisokane; Tom O'Meara and Martin Kennedy, of Toomevara; Michael Cronin, N.T., of Lorrha; Phil Cahil, of Holy Cross; Phil Purcell, of Moycarkey; Tommy Leahy, and Tom Butler, of Boherlahan; and Tommy Treacy, of Killea. It was around 3 o'clock p.m. when the tender moved from the quay out to the s.s. Milwaukee, anchored in the bay. A few short hours and all were aboard.

As the tender drew away there was renewed the old, old scenes of the exiles good-bye, and gently the sweet strains of "Come back to Erin" stole across the waters.

The liner was packed with returning tourists and exiles. Soon the boys got busy and it did not take long to make friends. We were a happy and a merry party, and had become as one big family. The voyage lasted eight days and was very pleasant.

Each new day began with Holy Mass, at which the boys attended regularly, giving a grand example to all on board.

During the day there was plenty of time for games and amusements, for swimming and training, for friendly chatter and social fun. Each night we invariably held a *ceilidhe* on the main deck; we were easily able to get together a large crowd of patrons; in fact, we might say that we practically took over the whole musical entertainment of our section of the ship.

There was abundance of Irish dance, music, poetry and song; we created many a sensation, so great a wealth had we of willing artists, many of whom were our own.

On these pleasant nights we made Ireland truly known as "First flower of the earth and first gem of the sea."

At last our sea journey came to an end; it was an hour that was full of joy and sorrow: joy that we had arrived across, sorrow that we had to part. Friends who have really been "in the same boat" do not easily forget one another. Nor shall we. Our first impressions of New York, great sky-scraper city of the New World, cannot easily be described.

It seemed to us that the very sky had come to earth, and that the days of Babel had returned! And no wonder!

A little while and we were on the pier in the midst of it all. A brief ceremony of formal welcome from a little select committee of Municipal Authorities and exiled friends, and then we were whirled and sirened to the Knights of Columbus Hotel, where a formal lunch awaited. Mr. Kennedy, of Nenagh, veteran President of all Tipperarymen in that city, presided and spoke a beautiful address of welcome to the boys. City Treasurer, Mr. Maud, and Mr. John Maher, of Cashel, supported. Our reverend chaplains and Captain Callanan replied on behalf of the Team.

In Praise of Tipperary.

The following day the two leading functions of our first days took place, our official reception at the City Hall in the forenoon, and our official banquet of welcome in the evening. At the City Hall we were received with much pageantry by Deputy-Mayor McKee. In a brief and very happy speech he spoke very nicely of Ireland and recalled the many lovely things about her that he had heard from dear parents. We were touched, indeed, especially when

he said that to him the men of Tipperary, many of whom he had the honour of being associated with in the administration of his own city, were "Tipp-leal" of all that was noble and splendid in the great country from which his forebears came.

A special invitation was extended to us to be present at a general meeting of New York G.A.A. Capt. Leahy and Capt. Callanan, accompanied by the Rev. Chaplain, attended. At this meeting the Chairman extended a hearty welcome, and was supported by Mr. P. J. Grimes, who spoke a beautiful address on behalf of the New York hurling team that were to be our opponents on the morrow. Rev. Frs. Meagher and Lee replied, and warmly commended the Gaels of U.S.A. for the great work they had always done for our national games and traditions, and encouraged them to continue the good work. "It would be too bad," he said, "if for want of players, the future should see us without the glamour and the glory of International contests."

A special intereview was given us by His Eminence Cardinal Hayes, who sent his blessing to the boys, and very kindly placed the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral at our disposal for Sunday, when the whole team, headed by their Rev. Chaplains, marched two deep to Mass.

This first Sunday saw the beginning of the series of contests for the World's Hurling Crown, at the Polo Grounds. Huge crowds, massed pipers' bands, and the flying of many emblems of the two countries greeted the combatants as they lined up at centrefield. Watching the ball being thrown in were four Tipperary men, each of them an All-Ireland captain in his day: Billy Barret, Wedger Maher, Johnnie Leahy and John J. Callanan. For an hour the battle waged to and fro. "On, Ireland!" "On, America!" came from every side, and not till the final whistle did our boys from Erin draw a breath of victorious relief. It was a master game. "Well done, O'Meara," told its tale of victory over a splendid and a worthy foe. And sure Tommy did play!

One enthusiastic lady on the side-line burst out: "Well, he sure is some kid! I'd just love to go down and —— him!"

Naturally, this first victory worked wonders. It gave our boys the right spirit; it inspired them with great confidence and determination in the formidable task that lay ahead, that of conquering the great hurling men of the great Republic from Hudson Bay to the Golden Gate.

The Boys of Boston.

Next week came Boston. A civic reception was tendered by Hon. Mayor James Curley at the City Hall, where an exquisite lunch was served, and Irish music rendered by the well-known artists, "O'Leary's Irish Minstrels." In a scholarly address, Mayor Curley spoke of Ireland's ancient culture, and expressed his joy in saying Cead Mile Fáilte to all. The Boston game was played at Summerville, a suburban municipality, and, therefore, was under the patronage of Hon. John J. Murphy, Mayor of that city. He extended a great welcome to the boys at the City Hall, and treated them to a wonderful "shore dinner" some 100 miles up the coast. It is said that Capt. Leahy has since been seeking shrimps and lobsters in his native Suir! Mayor Murphy also conferred the freedom of his city on the team, and had the whole day's game carried through with a pageantry that Croke Park might envy,

From a stand at the centre side-line he broadcasted a welcome to the combatants, sent greetings to the people of Ireland, and had our National Anthem played and sung before a tremendous gathering

A few days of social enjoyment and all prepared to go West. First to Niagara Falls—its thundering roar, its majestic power, its dazzling beauty will live long in our memory. The schoolboy's fancy, the teacher's exposition fade before the reality of this great cataract of Nature.

(Continued on Page 70).

American team and officials on board for U.S.A.

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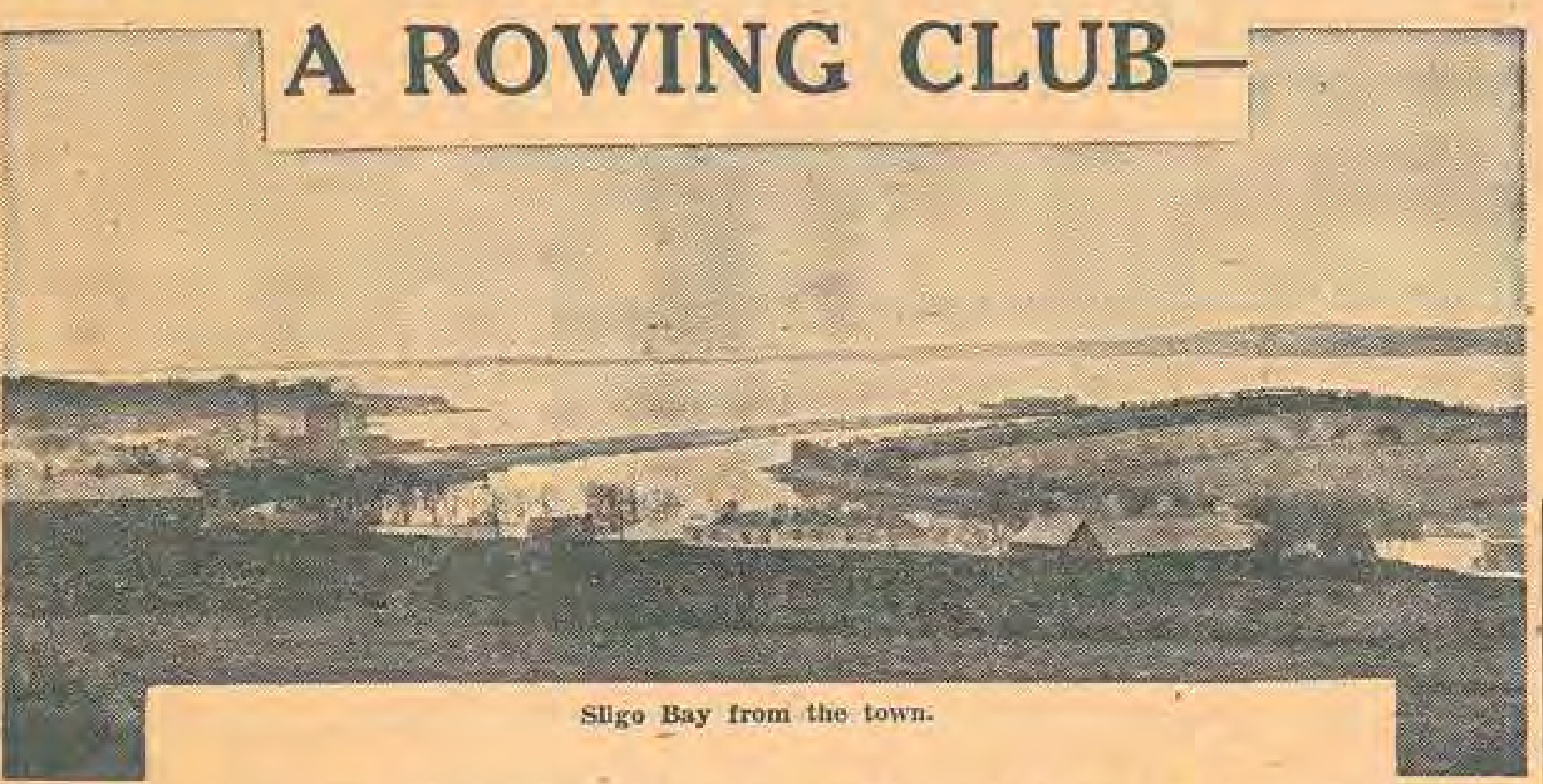
THEY GAVE UP THE IDEA OF A ROWING CLUB—

Sligo's oarsmen thought hurleys were just as good

By

J. Harrington



Sligo Bay from the town.

WHEN each Irish county, on the occasion of this historic Jubilee celebration, is proudly producing every available ancient record of deeds accomplished during half a century within its own borders for the welfare of the games of the Gael, it is only natural to expect that a few areas, in the analysis presented, will be awarded the fullest measure of praise, while the rest must be content to view the bouquets from a distance.

Sligo's somewhat chequered contribution to the golden annals of the Association does not earn her a right to rank with the leaders in the vanguard. Still, she is deserving of honourable mention fairly high on the roll of fame, for even though we find her history, particularly in the first decade, or so, marred by lengthy spells of regrettable stagnation, it is also to be recorded that she was one of the first counties in the West to fall into line. The extraordinary outburst of national enthusiasm which greeted the new movement in the Spring of '85 swept over Sligo like a prairie fire.

Gaelic football, as if by magic, sprang up in every parish, though it was not until two years later that the first County Championship went on record.

This historic contest for Sligo's first Gaelic honours was played at Ballymote in the summer of 1887 between Sligo Town, represented by the Black and Blues, and a strong team from Curry parish. Jack Shea, still hale and hearty, who retired last year from the Sligo Town Clerkship, captained the Black and Blues, and the south county men were led by Luke Walsh, who died in Galway a few months ago. The friendly promise of the Curry captain to "top-dress the field" with the Sligo team did not materialise in the hectic game which followed; and so, the Black and Blues became the first holders of the County title.

John O'Shea, Captain of Sligo's first champions.

The champions of '87, many of whom have since passed to their reward, were:—Jack Shea (captain), John Duignan (goal), Wm. Mann, Felix Gillen, P. F. Harte, Jas. J. Harte, John Mulligan, H. C. O'Donnell, Michael Mulligan, Percy Roberts, Austin Gallagher, Dick Mann, John Earley, Chas. Connolly, Jas. Wynne, and Richard Kelly.

In November of the same year Sligo made its entry into the Provincial championship.

The Black and Blues, starting out from Sligo at 9 a.m. in an old-time wagonette, reached Charlestown six hours later for their inter-county contest with Castlebar.

The game, played only half a mile inside the Mayo border, drew a huge attendance of enthusiasts from each county. To add to the day's excitement the scores were equal at the end of an hour's play. Extra time, as was the rule in the pioneer days, did not decide the issue; each side had added a point when the darkness of the winter evening and the whistle of a delighted referee, brought the combat to an end. The match was never re-played; and not for many years afterwards did Sligo make another appearance in inter-county football.

The success of the Black and Blues on the Gaelic field was brilliant but short-lived. Composed for the most part of Association football players, living in a British-garrisoned town that boasted of several Soccer teams, we find the title-holders conspicuously absent from the few succeeding championships that were played before a long period of stagnation ensued in the Gaelic history of the entire County.

The game, however, for two or three years was kept vigorously to the forefront in the rural areas, principally, in South Sligo. In 1888 Curry, still under Luke Walsh's determined leadership, wrested the championship from Sooey at Coolaney; and the same combination repeated this achievement in the following year.

Prominent players, officials, and enthusiastic supporters in those far-off days included:—Father John Mullen, Cooloney; Michael Keane (the present Secretary to Sligo County Council); Thomas Gorevan, Ballintogher; James Connolly, Sligo; the Colleran brothers, Curry; Pat Flynn, captain of Sooey; Pat Jennings, Cooloney (whose son, Mick Jennings, played County and Provincial football for ten years up to 1928, and is at present Hon. Treasurer of the Connacht Council); J. Fraser, P.O., Ballymote.

From the close of the 'Eighties the championship games died away, and for the fifteen subsequent years practically vanished altogether. What there had been of Gaelic endeavour up to this, and what continued for brief periods in scattered areas, was solely confined to football.

Hurling was unknown to the County; and, in fact, throughout the entire half century of the Association's history Sligo has never displayed much more than a fleeting interest in Ireland's ancient pastime.

Enthusiasm for the new code seems to have disappeared at this stage almost as quickly as its birth had been greeted; and with its passing Soccer once more captured public attention, even in rural Coolloney and Ballymote. Cycling and general athletics also became highly popular at this period, and for several years inter-parish contests continued to attract a huge patronage. The late P. A. McHugh, M.P., took a deep interest in the development of athletics in the county, and in 1895 became President of the Sligo United Cycling Club.

Oarsmen Become Hurlers.

The Gaelic revival movement came in 1905, and strangely enough, a rowing club must be accredited with its birth. This was the Wanderers' Rowing Club of Sligo town who launched forth into hurling.

The movement attracted the public interest, and in a short while, the spirit of the Gael once more asserted itself, this time as a lasting influence in the social life of the people.

The Association was reformed under the chairmanship of P. J. McDermott, merchant, Bunninadden; and prominent citizens like Michael Gallagher (now Chairman of Sligo Board of Health); Pat Kilfeather, N.T., Knocknaree, Batt Henry, N.T., Ballymote; Frank Nally (managing director, Messrs. Higgins and Keighrons); P. J. McHale (manager, John Egan and Son); Owen Healy, John R. Treacy, Pat McCavock. In May of that year, through the efforts of Pat McHale, the Egan Cup was presented by his firm for provincial hurling. Galway was the first to annex the trophy, and, maybe, the last, for Sligo never saw or heard of it afterwards.

Wielding the caman, however, was not generally noticeable. It was, more or less, confined to Sligo town, Sooey and Dromard. The 1905 title was won by Sligo, but the Dromard O'Growneys captured it in the following year, and retained it until 1909 when the national game vanished from our county playing fields for the long stretch of more than twenty years. In 1930 Sligo town and its old rivals, Dromard, were again foremost in an effort to bring about its revival, but so far, although several areas are to-day showing signs of promising interest, it cannot be said that this highly important branch of the G.A.A. programme is in anything like a flourishing condition at the moment. This year's recently elected County Committee has had the matter under serious consideration, and as a result, a marked improvement is confidently expected.

On the other hand, Gaelic football, since its re-appearance here close on thirty years ago, has gained each season in vigour and popularity; but, following the lapse in 1912 of the Wanderers' Club, which had, till then, maintained a splendid record in this sphere of the G.A.A., its principal stronghold is located outside the borough bounds, notably, in the southern and eastern portions of the county.

The Junior Class was not established until recent years.

In 1911, through the efforts of the late Father O'Grady, C.C., Keash, who presented a beautiful cup, a football League, which is still going strong, was formed in South Sligo.

The most prosperous period of Sligo football, apart from the increasing interest it commands to-day in all areas in the county, was from 1918 to 1928. During these years the Senior team fought several brilliant battles in the inter-county arena, principally against Mayo. The 1922 Connacht Championship was won on the field by Sligo against Galway, but an objection was lodged. Before the matter was decided, however, the inter-provincial tie presented itself, and Sligo was chosen to do duty for Connacht. The contest was against Tipperary, and it ended in the decisive defeat of the gallant county.

Thus, Sligo, for the first time in history, had high hopes of All-Ireland honours, but unfortunately, the opportunity to realise them did not materialise. On the Galway objection a replay was ordered, and Sligo lost the match.

To Sligo belongs the achievement of winning the first National League final in 1926, although she cannot be credited officially with the honour.

Knockalassa—Champions to-day.

The match was with Leix who objected to the wrong Christian name of one of the Sligo players. The replay went in Leix's favour.

In 1927 our Seniors suffered suspension, following an unfinished match with Mayo; but in 1928 both our Senior and Junior county teams were well in the limelight, winning these two Championships of Connacht.

To-day there is, at least, one Gaelic club in every parish in the county. Football has been predominant; camogie is a real live force in several districts; and there is evidence of late that the future holds bright prospects for hurling and handball. Cycling and athletic sports have become very popular in the last two of three seasons; and, as instanced in the past two years, the county has gained marked distinction in cross-country events.

The most important achievement regarding the permanent well-being of the Association so far as this county is concerned is, perhaps, the recent acquisition of an admirable Gaelic Park almost in the centre of Sligo town. Plans for the proper equipment of these grounds, which will make them second to none outside Croke Park, are well advanced.

By midsummer it is hoped they will be ready for opening as a fitting memorial to this year of the Association's Golden Jubilee.

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HOW LIKE A CONNACHT "KINGDOM"

MAYO—The Home of the Stephenites

ON BOARD—Mryo's American Tour team.

UNTIL very recent times Mayo football was Ballina football; the home of the Stephenites was to "Connacht's Kerry" what Tralee of the Mitchels was, and indeed still is, to the "Kingdom."

Ballina was indeed the centre and hub of Gaelic football. Westport, Newport, Killala, Castlebar, and Claremorris had their energetic clubs, but the capital had the monopoly. Now indeed it is changed, though the majority of our teams are of the Stephenite Clan. But away along the winding, dreary road that leads to the austere and beautiful desolation of Belmullet, and by the bog-desert from Bangor to Achill, the little villages have their football fields.

The migratory labour heritage, called by us in Mayo the "tawtie-hoking," takes its toll of Gaelic manhood yearly in the West.

Ireland has not yet realised the awful danger to Gaelicism of this yearly draining, the creeping in of the foreign cult which results in that curious paradox—that the Gaeltacht is becoming the Galltacht of Ireland.

A TRIBUTE DUE.

A teacher of Belmullet district, well-known and popular in Mayo's Gaelic circles, told me once "if the Mayo people had Kerry's enthusiasm for the game, and backed their team to the limit, the Mayomen would never be beaten." He brought me through the storied land of Erris, and we spoke to the old Gaels there . . . . I think he was wrong—I think it is that the struggle to live in the west of Mayo, the lack of men-folk, the cream of a great county, for long terms of all the years, that has held Mayo back for so long.

Which proves that a great tribute goes out to Mayo for their advance in the past few years, when they went all out for world honours.

As was the case with most Western counties, Mayo's games were unchronicled and unrecognised for the first few years of the Association's progress. Mayo was a competitor in the unfinished championships in 1888. In 1889 they were drawn against Galway, but were defeated.

The organisation of Mayo took place soon after the formation of the G.A.A., and towards the end of 1886 more than twelve teams had been affiliated from the county.

Notable among these were the Granuailes, of Balla, who won the first championship in 1888; Castlebar Mitchels, Ballina Stephenites, Ballina Commercials, Killala Round Towers, Charlestown Sarsfields, Ballysokeery Dr. Walshs, Crossmolina Dr. Crokes, Swinford, Claremorris and Ballyhaunis.

Castlebar Mitchels were victors in the county championships of 1889, and in 1890 we first heard of the Stephenites, of Ballina. The following year the championship was again retained by Ballina, but this time by the rival team—Commercials.

For ten years nothing was heard of Mayo in the G.A.A. world, and another attempt at organising the county was made in 1902. The following year the county team, which was represented by Charlestown, was defeated by Cork. The Stephenites won a set of medals from the rest of the county in 1902, but it was not until three years later that they began their long list of successes in the county championships.

GREAT PLAYERS.

They represented Connacht on January 21, 1906, when they drew with the Tralee Mitchels (Munster) at Tuam, with Mr. John Fitzgerald, Kildare, as referee, in the semi-final of the Croke Cup. On a re-play at Limerick the Stephenites won. In the final at Jones Road on April 1, they were beaten by Kildare by 1 goal 9 points to nil. The Stephenites on that occasion were:—R. Marsh, T. Kilmartin, P. Farmer, T. Boshell, T. Mede, T. Murray, P. Kilduff, D. Ryder, J. Crane, O. Sweeney, P. Sweeney, M. J. Hevey, M. Manelly, R. MacHugh, B. Ferguson, A. Corcoran, W. Boshell.

In 1907 Mayo was beaten in the final of the Croke Cup by Kerry by 2 goals 6 points to 2 goals 3 points, but the following year the Stephenites had their revenge when the scores were:—Mayo, 1 goal 8 points; Kerry, 5 points.

Mayo was defeated by Wexford in 1916 by 3-4 to 1-2 in the All-Ireland Football Final. In the 1921 final they were again runners-up, this time to Dublin, who were victors by 1-9 to 0-2.

But in the Croke Park tournament of the same year they defeated Dublin by 1-3 to 1-2.

The next time Mayo appeared in the Final they were only beaten by three points by Kerry in 1932.

The County Championship was held by Charlestown Sarsfields in 1902; by Castlebar Mitchels in 1903; from 1904 to 1916 the Stephenites refused to be displaced, but in 1917 Lacken won its first County Championship. The following year Stephenites resumed their position only to be ousted in 1919 by Ballyhaunis. From 1920 to 1929 the Stephenites retained their leadership except from 1921-23 when the championship was unfinished.

Mayo has been always at the top as far as the Connacht Championship is concerned. They have nineteen successes to their credit.

In 1933 Galway succeeded in the ascendency over them but Mayo is quite definite about taking the lead again this year.

The fight put up against Kerry by the Mayo Minors in the All-Ireland Final shows that if the training facilities were adequate Mayo has the material to annex the Senior All-Ireland Final. And the Gaels of Mayo are making great efforts to overcome the difficulties with which they are presented. Ballina now has its own ground for the first time.

The energetic County Secretary, P. J. Mullaney, deserves great credit for the efficiency with which the business of the G.A.A. is carried out in the county. With the able assistance of the Chairman, B. Durkan, the followers of the game in the county can be assured that nothing is being left undone which will ensure the bringing of the Red and Green to victory.

IT WAS KINDLED FROM THE FENIAN FIRE

By

Thomas Markham

"In a foreign land, in a lonesome city,
With few to pity, to know, or care."

JOHN O'MAHONY died seven years before the G.A.A. was launched. He died in poverty in New York. Twenty-nine years earlier he was "on his keeping" in Tipperary. After the failure at Ballingarry, O'Mahony, assisted by his friend, John Savage, essayed the praiseworthy but perilous task of raising fresh hope in the hearts of the people. Caution and restraint marked his every movement, and he endeavoured to imbue others with those necessary qualities. His genius for organisation was revealed in many ways, as, for example,

when he gathered hundreds of men together in the cornfield at Aheny, and again at a hurling match at Carrick, in order to rouse in them an enthusiasm for the cause of Irish Freedom.

O'Mahony's plan to remain in Ireland, organising, developing, training, was frustrated by the fact that information reached the British authorities that he was a "grave menace to the peace of the realm." The generous people of Tipperary and Waterford were always ready to welcome and shelter him. But the net spread out for his capture was hourly narrowing in its circumference, and he was just lucky to escape to Wales. From Wales he contrived to reach France, whence he sailed for America. Once in the Land of the Free, he immediately resumed his preparation for the achievement of the Irish Republic.

With the assistance of James Stephens, he founded and organised the I.R.B., and became its "Head Centre" in America.

Having in mind the keynote of O'Mahony's teaching—"self-restraint, self-discipline, self-sacrifice"—leading members of the I.R.B. held a Council meeting in 1883, and decided thereat to initiate an athletic movement which would attract the young mannood of Ireland. Later in the same year, a sub-group, consisting of P. N. Fitzgerald, Pat Hoctor, John Menton, and Jim Boland, met in a certain house in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, for the purpose of giving effect to the decision. A formidable difficulty now confronted them. The eager anticipation, the intense enthusiasm of the early days of Fenianism were wanting. Politics had crept into the great movement, disrupting and demoralising it. Sharp differences amongst leaders had their devastating repercussions amongst the rank and file.

The membership still remained at its remarkable strength—close on a quarter-of-a-million.

But numerical strength, minus unity of method, brings about the paradoxical result—weakness. Movement melts into mob on the by-ways. It is potent only when it retains the scent of battle. Anything which adulterates that aroma of militancy makes for diffusion of energies, and creates many evils, such as calumny and suspicion. In 1883, the Fenians were up against copious doses of such adulteration; and hence they planned not only to put O'MaLony's idea into execution, but also to restore to their huge "numerical strength" the sense of a common purpose in a common cause.

For the foregoing reasons it was considered advisable that prominent anti-constitutionalists should not, in the initial stages at all events, openly appear to dominate an organisation whose ostensible object would be to bring the Games of the Gael under executive control. Hence the Fenian quartet, who met at Blackrock to decide the matter, looked around for a capable organiser.

Their choice fell on Michael Cusack. Within the shores of Eirinn, no better could have been found. Cusack was a hundred per cent Fenian in thought and ambition, and was not then "suspect" of actual Fenian association.

Unfortunately, as the Association grew, differences and dissensions amongst Fenians accentuated and intensified. Notable members of the I.R.B. relaxed in their erstwhile Fenian Faith, and threw in their lot with the advocates of political strategy. As a consequence, the Association became shorn of much of its virile nationality. Undiluted Republicanism waned in its influence both in the forum and field.

Sincere I.R.B. men still clung on, and were encouraged to persevere in their aims and ideals by John O'Leary's acceptance of the position of patron of the Association.

A giant in physique and intellect, mesmeric in his sincerity, Cusack was a marvel of organising capacity. Very soon, under the intensity of his propaganda, the glamour of the organised Games caught on.

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GLORIOUS STORY LINKED WITH NAMES OF DEAD YOUNG MEN

CORK—PEERLESS HURLERS OF THE SOUTH

THE Rebel County was represented at the inauguration of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Thurles o November Day, 1884; and a few weeks later threw its strength more firmly into the movement at the second, or adjourned, meeting which was held in the Victoria Hotel, Cork; while, through all the intervening years this great southern county has played a prominent and noble part in Gaelic history.

But this is not surprising; for just as C. J. Kickham recalls "the hurling in the Kiln field" in his famous anecdotes of Knocknagow, so too—even omitting the mythical adventures of Diarmuid Deirbh of Muskerry, who played with the sidhe in their fairy mid-night hostings—can we record the many clashes of the men of the south long before the G.A.A. was founded; and a few authentic introductory references will assuredly prove interesting not only to the immediate suporters of the particular clubs, but also to the innumerable followers of the national pastimes at home and beyond the seas.

Limerick and Cork are old and worthy rivals.

A Challenge.

On the 14th June, 1876, eight years before the G.A.A. was established, a letter appeared in the Cork Press from a Carrigaline burler, issuing a challenge to the men of St. Finn Barr's parish, on behalf of sixteen men picked from "eight parishes of the South to play a match of goal for £2 per hurley"; and on the next day came an acceptance from "the St. Barry hurlers," stating that "the space for collecting sixteen men was certainly wide enough, but as some of our players were not born in the South Parish we freely admit the terms.

> **At the same time we think the writer might have avoided applying such epithets to a few humble men who at some inconvenience to themselves, and certainly at no benefit, have endeavoured to keep alive one of our manly sports, a great many of which, I am sorry to say, have been permitted to die."**

In the Autumn of the same year (1876) a match was brought off in Cork between St. Finn Barrs and Blackrock; and, considering the subsequent outstanding performances of these celebrated rivals some rather prophetic extracts will be the source of much enlightenment and entertainment in their own quaint way. This rather unorthodox match was won by the Barrs, but a "Disinterested Outsider," writing to the Press, says: "that the Blackrock men were deprived of a clear field, for that

> **having won choice place they put the ball down by their own corner, but some spectators rushed in and took the hurleys away from them."**

A Counter-Challenge.

In reply, the Barrs stated: "We have received challenges from time to time from many parishes in the county. Cloughroe we played twice; Ballygarvan twice, with their clergyman, the Rev. Fr. Murray, accompanying them; Aglish once; Carrigaline twice; Shanbally twice, accompanied by Fr. McDonnell. In each of these several matches we were victorious. On several occasions we declined to play Blackrock, thinking the two parishes were too close to each other, however, we acceded, after some reluctance to play them. It was madness for the Blackrock men to say their hurleys were taken from them by outsiders and the ball kicked. The people coming on the field prevented us from striking the ball towards our own coole. However, through sound judgment and manly play we took the ball away from them, and won one of the best matches ever played in Cork. But if Blackrock wish to try our strength again we will play them in Corker's Inch, Innishannon, on any weekday they wish so as to prevent over-crowding."

> **What thrilling battles these gallant combinations have served up to win renown for their county, and to bring renewed lustre to the ancient pastimes of the Gael.**

Cork's Gaelic Dead.

It can thus be seen that the deep-rooted seeds of our native games were already springing from fertile ground when the moving spirits of the G.A.A. gave the necessary fillip to their rising activity. Good order and regularity were introduced where previously there was little leadership or united effort; a truer and fuller national perspective was awakened, and a new hope blazoned on the fields of Ireland. Cork moved forward in line with the vanguard, and ever since the cheering day when Aghabullogue annexed the All-Ireland Hurling Championship at Clonturk Park in 1890, this great county has held an honoured place in the records of athletic achievement, giving to the world some of her best athletes, and to Ireland many of her noblest sons.

> **Tomás McCurtain, Terence McSwiney, John O'Connell (Cove), Tadhg Barry and Michael Deering have graced her Council chambers, and Dick Barrett, Charley Hurley, Denny Barry, "Flyer" Nyhan, O'Sullivan, Dr. Con Lucey, the Kents of Castlelyons, and many others have left undying memoirs on her verdant fields.**

So, holding premier place to-day in the hurling arena, with the sporting friends and gallant comrades of Kilkenny and Tipperary close at hand, and all the other counties striving manfully upward, the Rebel County can look back with just pride over the past and face the future with every confidence of success.

Her Victories.

In all Cork has won the Hurling Championship of All Ireland eleven times, the Munster Championship on nineteen occasions, winning the latter five times in succession from 1901 to 1905, and four times in sequence from 1926 to 1929 inclusive. Tipperary figure next with sixteen provincial victories, Limerick taking seven and Clare three, and Kerry accounting for another. Cork has triumphed in the Croke Cup several times, in the National Hurling League twice; the Ward Cup in London thrice; as well as in the Thomond Shield and various tournaments from Cork to the shores of Lough Foyle.

By

Sean Mac Carthaigh, B. A.
G. A. A. President

What keen rivalry has always existed between the three remarkable hurling counties of Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

> **There used to be a saying in Tipp that "if they had the hay saved and Cork 'bate' the people should be fairly well satisfied,"**

and it is a well-known fact that the margin between Cork and Kilkenny is always a near thing. At a meeting in the Blackrock Recreation Hall early in 1909 it was decided to play Kilkenny All-Ireland team a series of home-and-home matches, for the benefit of the Munster Feis, "to serve as a bright opening for the season's work, and to break once and for all the spell of de-vitalising monotony that has enveloped us in Leeside so long." This tournament certainly had a brightening effect on the whole Gaelic horizon, but it took three-and-a-half years to finish, there being three draws, Kilkenny eventually gaining the laurels at Dungarvan by 1 goal 1 point to 1 point, after one of the finest games ever witnessed, there being no score by either team in the second period. The more recent incomparable All-Ireland final of 1931 when there were two draws before Cork captured the honours at the third meeting are still fresh, and will long live in the memories of all hurling enthusiasts.

The names of the peerless men who achieved these high honours shine in the annals of Gaelic sport, and their striking deeds ever serve as an inspiration. From Blackrock, that sequestered little fishing village by the Lee, we have the celebrated Coughlan family who in successive generations have captained their team to All-Ireland victory; the dauntless Doheny Murphys, Flaherty, Parfrey, Curtis, Leahy, Dorney, Steve Riordan, and Matty Murphy who captained the team; the Buckleys, and Andy Fitzgerald, the renowned goal-keeper; Billie Mackessy, who has the distinction of having played hurling (against Tipp) on the historic battle-field of Fontenoy, holds All-Ireland medals in both hurling and football for his native county; Seán Og Murphy, the prince of full backs, who captained two victorious All-Ireland teams, and is now the esteemed and very efficient County Secretary; Jim Hurley, for years the outstanding midfield man in Ireland; Pat Delea, E. O'Connell, and G. Garrett, brainy and resourceful backmen; the Ahernes, who were the terror of every back-line; Pat has five senior All-Ireland medals, and Michael four senior and one junior, which is a great record for two brothers. It would take too much space to exhaust the list of Blackrock men, so I must turn to the redoubtable Dungourney stalwarts, Jim Kelleher, the most versatile of hurlers "who went out through the opposing goal," after twelve years' captaincy. Most players fall back as they get slow of pace, but Jim started in goal, and played his last big match as centre-forward. Roynane, whose tussles with "Tyler" Mackey of Limerick were a treat to watch; Jerry Desmond, a tower of strength in the backs; Tom Garde, O'Shea, and Billie Hennessy whose shots put the net whirling.

The "Barrs" To-day.

The St. Finn Barrs, present-day champions, too, supplied their quota of stylish and effective ball-players. Christy Young was a dashing forward; Joe Roynane and J. Beckett, athletic and speedy wingers; Sheehan, Moloney, and Cantillon; Danix Ring, a beautiful striker; Cronin brothers, small in stature, but great players and earnest triers; Mick O'Connell, a forceful and robust centre-man; Dr. Joe Kearney, Johnny Kenneally, one of the most penetrative of forwards. Coming then to the sporting Redmonds, we recall T. Irwin, who had few peers as a wingman; Casserelly, W. O'Callaghan, Conny Sheehan, one of the most accurate, deft, and consistent back-men; Morgan Madden, a feirless tackler, and a most enthusiastic county man. Who can forget the tireless Tim Nagle and Paddy Halloran of St. Mary's; Frank Kelleher of Shamrocks; or Dick Gorman, the powerful giant from Midleton; the flying centres of Mick Byrne, or the crashing drives of Billie O'Neill and Bowler Walsh of Sarsfields; the quick adroit centres of Billie Aherne, the headlong charges of "Major" Kennedy, the marvellous goal-minding of Ned Grey, and the sweeping strokes of the Barrys of Carrigtwohill, or the sprightly tactics of "Love" Higgins, Cove, and the dogged efforts of W. Clancy, Mallow. What a tower of strength was John Hassett of Collegians—now Manager, Dararagh Agriculture College—but my space is running out. Still I have some of the best wine for the last in that inimitable stylist, D. B. Murphy of Cloughduv and Eire Og, and the dexterous striking of "Fox" Collins, Glen Rovers, and the lion-hearted Jim O'Regan of Kinsale, equally skilled in football and one of the best all-round quarter-line men that ever handled a camán. So, in the appealing words of Father Dollard, to these and all those unmentioned

(Continued on page 60.)

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"KEEP YOUR PEOPLE AWAY FROM CROKE PARK TO-DAY"

Message I.R.A. intercepted too late on Bloody Sunday

BLOODY SUNDAY! The expression itself spells red. There was many a Bloody Sunday in Ireland when men saw 'red' and when red blood ran. For instance, and to confine ourselves to modern times, there was that Bloody Sunday when Jim Larkin, and the Countess, appeared at a window in the Imperial Hotel, O'Connell St., Dublin. Their appearance there was the signal for a savage attack on the populace by hostile policemen. Every baton found its billet, and streams of human blood commingled in Ireland's noblest thoroughfare. Can we forget that Bloody Sunday? Ah! let those who were far away from the scene of slaughter toll the charity bell.

But of that other Bloody Sunday I write—that Sunday when a man whom I loved—Dick McKee, and his companions, Peadar Clancy and Conor Clune lay awaiting their terrible fate in Dublin Castle.

"Stamp Out Terrorism!"

The month of November, 1920, witnessed the Anglo-Irish war at the height of its intensity. A month or so before, a British Divisional Commissioner sent his message to his superiors:

> **". . . . I have been told the policy and plan—the "stamping out of terrorism by secret murder. I'm "not sanguine about success, but it is worth trying."**

That plan was being pushed forward with a vengeance. Murder grew commonplace. The hush of death fell on the land. Not even the sacred ministry was immune from molestation, and worse. Father Griffin, of Galway, was lured away from his home in the darkness of the night, and his bullet-riddled body found on the eve of Bloody Sunday. Those who held the land by force had done this thing.

Their Intelligence Officers were doing their fell work at high pressure. But they had to reckon with the splendid Secret Service of the I.R.A.

A grey sky canopied Dublin on the morning of November 20th. The weather was calm and dry. A sinister stillness pervaded the atmosphere. The usual sounds of bomb and rifle were not heard by the people attending the Masses. But the faces of I.R.A. men looked unusually determined and grave.

News had percolated amongst the general body that many of the British Intelligence in Ireland had been shot.

In short, it was passed around that fourteen of these officers had met their deaths that morning in Dublin.

Dublin Castle, where "Bloody Sunday" was planned.

Noon arrived, and passed, and the ominous inactivity of the British Forces persisted.

No cordons were drawn across the bridges. No Tan-loaded lorries were seen on the streets. Naturally, I.R.A. men expected reprisals, but as to their nature, they could only conjecture.

At length, an "Inner Five" man received startling information. Croke Park was singled out for attention. A telegram, which came via Belfast to an official representative of the Government of the United States, was read, unnoticed by that official while he held it in his hand. It ran as follows:

"KEEP YOUR PEOPLE AWAY FROM CROKE PARK THIS AFTERNOON."

Members of the I.R.A. were despatched to the National Statdium to warn the officials. By the time they arrived there, some thousands had passed through the turnstiles eagerly anxious to witness the challenge football match fixed for issue between Dublin and Tipperary.

Cimarron

Meanwhile, the turnstiles clicked busily. At 2.45, when the game was scheduled to begin, close on 15,000 persons were present.

The game began, and continued for ten minutes. Suddenly big contingents of British armed forces converged on the Park. A big company of men, uniformed variously, in the official garb of Tan, Auxie, and ordinary soldier, entered the Park at the Canal side. They immediately opened fire on the spectators. So did a machine gunner from one of the aeroplanes which flew overhead.

The aeroplane firing was vigorously denied. I witnessed the operation from close quarters.

The scenes which ensued cannot be adequately depicted. Hundreds threw themselves flat on the sward; thousands raced for the exits, and every possible point of egress. There was the inevitable rushing and crushing, but also a fine measure of magnanimous action. The less active folk amongst the spectators were rendered willing assistance in their efforts to get away.

The result of this atrocious attack on unarmed persons was the killing of five, and the wounding of fifteen. Over a hundred received minor injuries. Amongst the five thus leaded to their doom was Michael Hogan, captain of the Tipperary team. His dead body was found lying in a pool of blood at the Clonliffe end, and adjacent to Hill 16.

His feet were on the playing pitch, his body on the gravel path. He was shot through the mouth.

This attack was organised by a certain captain who was assisted by another senior officer. The Bulletin issued by Dublin Castle on the occurrence defended the action.

> "It was believed," he wrote, "that a number of gunmen came up to-day under the guise of attending a Gaelic football match between Dublin and Tipperary, but the real motive was the taking part in the series of murderous outrages which took place in Dublin this morning."

CORK HAS A STORY OF DEAD MEN

(*Continued from page 58.*)

let me say: "May God bless them all wherever they may be."

The inter-county football teams acquitted themselves well in the intervening years with victories in eleven Munster Championships, as well as in a few Croke Cup finals, but they were often unlucky to be beaten by a single point in the semi-finals and finals of the Championships.

The most prominent in the city formerly were the Nils, Lees, and O'Briens; and in the county, Dunmanway, Dromtarriffe, Clondrohid, Macroom, Kanturk, Fermoy, Midleton, Aghada, Castlemartyr, Mitchelstown, Killeagh, Cloyne, Ladysbridge, Douglas and Bandon. Some of these have given way in recent times to new champions from U.C.C., where Moore, Murphy, O'Connor, Callanan, O'Keeffe, Lucey, O'Sullivan and Kearney were conspicuous; Moss Donegan and T. Cotter of Bantry; O'Sullivan, Cummins, O'Shea, Power and Newton of Beara, who have won the Co. Championship two years in succession; Jim Hurley and D. Burke of Bantry; and Jim O'Regan of Kinsale. Our footballers were again successful in the senior Munster final in 1928, and in more recent years the displays of the junior and minor inter-county teams give tangible hope of the early restoration of Cork's prestige in the Gaelic code.

In fifty years of progress the G.A.A. in Cork has reached huge proportions, with a grand total of 174 clubs, comprising hurling and football teams extending to every parish. The national and propagandist side of the movement has also received attention. Through the initiative of Mr. J. J. Walsh,

a hurling tour was organised in connection with the Pan-Celtic Congress at the Brussels Exhibition in 1910, and teams from Cork and Tipperary played three matches—one in the Belgian Capital, another at Malines, and a third on the historic plains of Fontenoy.

The arrangements abroad were faulty and the grounds unsuitable, but the two teams, led by a piper, marched from their hotel in their playing togs, and, on the whole, created a favourable impression. Tipp won two of the matches, and Cork the odd one. The teams got a wonderful reception on their return.

Three Dead Leaders.

A notable tournament, for the National Aid Fund, was organised by the G.A.A. in 1918. The final for Munster in football was played in Cork Athletic Grounds between Clare and Cork. Cathal Brugha travelled from Dublin to throw in the ball. He was accompanied to the match by Tomás McCurtáin, Lord Mayor of Cork; Tadhg Barry, afterwards shot in Ballykinlar Camp; and the present Chairman of the Cork County Board. The Cork combination, captained by Mick Murphy of the Nils, the famous inter-county hurler, were triumphant before an immense concourse. The final rested between Cork and Mayo at Croke Park, and in the first half-hour the western team piled up a big score, but in the second moiety Cork drew level; and owing to increased activities on other fields the match was never replayed. Seán Og Murphy played goal for Cork on that occasion;

and it is remarkable that three of the forwards subsequently qualified in the medical profession after spending years "on the hills," and they won honours again on the playing fields for their county.

These were Dr. Con Lucey, Dr. Eugene Callanan, and Dr. Joe Kearney. Mention of Mayo reminds me that many years previously Cork won the "Nally Shield," in the tournament to the memory of that indomitable Man of the West who died in Mountjoy Prison.

IRISH EDITOR IN ARGENTINE

Irish pastimes made great progress during the year, not only in Ireland, but in Great Britain, the United States, Australia, and in the Argentine Republic, where they were introduced by Senor Bulfin, Editor of the "Southern Cross," and some Irish friends.

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THEY WERE THE FIRST ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

Then they invaded Croke Park with their Camans

LIMERICK was one of the first counties to rally to the G.A.A. after that memorable Thurles meeting in 1884. Her early pioneers were Messrs. A. Mackey (Castleconnell), T. O'Gorman, Paddy O'Brien (Twenty), Michael Joyce (afterwards M.P.), John Crowe, L. Troy, J. Sheehan, J. Murphy, Wm. Trousdell (all of the city), Ned Cahill (Kilteely), P. D. Grogan (Knockaderry), Larry Roche (Dromin), P. R. Cleary (Caherconlish), Willie Hickey (Boher), David Cremmins (Bruff), and John Downes (Kilfinane). In West Limerick two great beloved priests — Father Casey, of Abbeyfeale, and Father O'Mahoney, of Mount Collins—both long since dead—were largely responsible for sowing the seeds that have borne such abundant fruit.

First All-Ireland Footballers.

Another prominent personage who was Treasurer of the Central Council in 1887 — the late Pat Hassett, of Ahane, did splendid work in his district and in the city. Dan Ryan was mainly responsible for the foundation of the Commercial Club — first All-Ireland Senior Football Champions—and about whose deeds most of Limerick's G.A.A. renown centres. Other great teams in the city at this time were St. Michaels and St. Johns, and South Liberties on the outskirts were already writing their name indelibly in Limerick's G.A.A. history. Of the quartette mentioned, only the latter remain to uphold older traditions and glories. What of our great football prowess? Could we emulate the mighty deeds of Dan Ryan, Con Fitzgerald, A. Quillivan, Jim Riardon and Pat Treacy? Will we ever see their likes again? True, Glin and Abbeyfeale are still leaders in the West: Ballylanders, Knockane, Doon and Oola districts usually supply sterling opponents.

By

W. F. Lee

In 1883 Commercials played their first game against the Limerick Butchers in the old Ballinacurra Racecourse. From that until 1927, when they won their last County Senior football title, is a long stretch, and much of our football history during the period centres about the activities of this famous club. They guaranteed the first special train over the old Waterford and Limerick, and G.S. and W. Railways. On the latter occasion it took six special trains to accommodate the living freight that travelled to see them play. They were All-Ireland Champions in 1887 and 1896, beating Dundalk 1-4 to 3 points to win with undisputed merit the first and one of the greatest championships of the G.A.A., and after nine years defeated Young Irelands (Dublin) 1-5 to 7 points in another great final. This, however, was Limerick's last football title. They won the County title sixteen times, besides numerous other honours.

All-Ireland Hurling Honours.

The President of the County Board during this red-letter period in G.A.A. history was a great Gael indeed—the late Mr. Spencer Lyons, of Croom. And the Secretary was the late Mr. P. J. Hayes. As far back as 1897, Limerick (Kilfinane) won the All-Ireland Championship from Kilkenny (Tullaroan) at Tipperary. The early years of the new century were lean ones in Sarsfield's County, and the Gaelic fire which once burned so fiercely sank to its embers.

Coming on to the end of the first decade the honour devolved on Castleconnell to bring our county once more into the front rank in the hurling world. On the 16th October, 1910, their "Selection," including Fedamore, Croom, Young Irelands, Rathkeale, Commercials, and Boher, defeated a great Cork team at Tralee Sportsfield. The result was most unexpected and came as a big surprise to all followers of hurling. Cork were cocksure of victory, and Willie Mackissey, one of the Cork players, stated afterwards: "We left the 'All-Ireland' fall off our hurleys." The following month Wexford (Castlebridge) defeated Limerick (Castleconnell) for the blue riband by 1 point—21 to 20. Limerick was disallowed 2 goals by bungling umpires, but subsequently lost the Championship on an appeal which was not lodged in duplicate form. Our county hurlers came on again the following year, and with nearly the same "Selection" Castleconnell won into the All-Ireland.

All-Ireland Fiasco.

The Final between Kilkenny and Limerick, billed for Cork on Sunday, 18th February, did not materialise owing to inclement weather. More than twelve thousand people had assembled, but the playing pitch was waterlogged and the game was postponed. Kilkenny was subsequently declared All-Ireland Champions as Limerick failed to turn up at Thurles.

It took seven years for our hurlers to appear at Croke Park again, when a Newcastle West "Selection" gave a bad beating to a Wexford pick on January 26, 1919. Another All-Ireland success came our way in 1921 when Limerick (Young Irelands) won a victory easily over Dublin (Faughs). Our lads got to the Final again in 1923, but they went down before Galway. It is scarcely necessary to dwell on last year's great Final against Kilkenny when Limerick had much the better of the play but lost by a score of 4 points.

From the foregoing particulars it can be seen that hurling is well to the forefront in our county, but it is regrettable that the record of the old famous Commercials in football has never been equalled.

Our Athletes.

Taking Limerick county on its area it has produced more noted athletes than any similar space on the face of the globe. In a "sketchy" article of this kind it is quite impossible to give a detailed account of the athletic side of our G.A.A. history. Hence I can give only a general reference.

The late Frank Dineen (Dia leis) was the first G.A.A. Handicapper and was President of the Association in 1896. He was a noted sprinter, and in 1884 covered 100 yards in 9 4-5 secs. Poor Frank owned Jones's Road. He parted with it to the G.A.A. Central Council who by degrees have made it the splendid ground known as Croke Park to-day.

The greatest athletic family of all time was the Leahys of Cregane. Paddy, Con, Joe, Tom, Mick and Tim. Where in all the world can we find, even in the pages of mythical lore, six such men. Alas! Paddy, Con and Tim (wonderful trio) are no more (Dia leo). In the weights, running and jumping events I have only space to mention some of the really great men. John Flanagan, Willie Real, Paddy Ryan, Jack Grady, Dr. J. C. Daly, J. J. Bresnihan, Larry Roche, Bob Coll, Jim Sheehy, Larry Feore, Tom Kiely, Denis Carey, Dan Shanahan, the Connerys, the Aherns, Jack McCarthy, Jim Keyes, O. D. Coll, Mick O'Neill, Mick Creed, Dr. John Meade, Jim Fahey, Mick O'Brien, Jack McNamara, Jim Condon (cyclist), etc., etc., and in later days the O'Callaghans, Tisdall, etc. It would take a full history to do full justice to Limerick athletes.

It is appropriate, in my concluding remarks, to state that the G.A.A. work in our county never stood higher. The present officials — Messrs. Clifford, Humphyries, Lanigan and Holland, re-elected unanimously lately—have given great services to the cause. With the advantage of the new G.A.A. grounds, the prospect is still brighter. Our hurling team hold great hopes of the highest honours.

Limerick or Cork—For Munster Honours.

LINK WITH SCOTLAND

(*Continued from page 32.*)

match was not destined to take place. The death of Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Byrne, mothers of two of Dublin's most prominent players, and of the death of the brother of Mr. J. J. Kenny, captain of the Dublin team, within a few days of the event, led to another postponement until St. Patrick's Day, 1888.

Internal troubles in the G.A.A. prevented any such international match being played until June 5, 1897, when the old Dublin Celtic Hurling Club with their friends travelled across to Glasgow to play the Cowal Shinty team. The teams were composed of twelve players aside and a shinty ball was used. The Cowal Club won by the decisive score of 11 goals to 2. The names of the first Irish team in this international match are: Michael Kelly (captain); W. Conlan (goal); James McEvoy, Jack Quigley, Jas. Hunter, Paddy Hayes, Charley Hunter, Tom Foley, Ned Walsh, Dan Wood, Jas. Diamond, S. Donovan.

The match was refereed by Mr. John Mackey, Editor, "Celtic Monthly." On July 17th of the same year, the Cowal Shinty Club came over and played a return match in Dublin with the Celtic Club. The game was much better than the first contest but the Scotchmen again proved their superiority, winning on a score of 2 goals to nil. On this occasion the teams were composed of fifteen players aside and Michael Cusack was referee. The Celtic team was the same as in the first game with the addition of Sil Pidgeon, J. Walsh and Andrew Ford.

The future of Shinty deserves all possible attention from those eager to preserve the games of the Gael. The Gaelic Athletic Association has manifested a strong desire to encourage the game of Shinty, and at a conference held with the Scotch representatives of the game last Autumn, Messrs. P. J. O'Keeffe, Secretary to the Central Council, G.A.A., and Mr. M. McNamee crossed over to represent the Executive of Irish Gaeldom, and a readjustment of some details in the rules of the game was arrived at.

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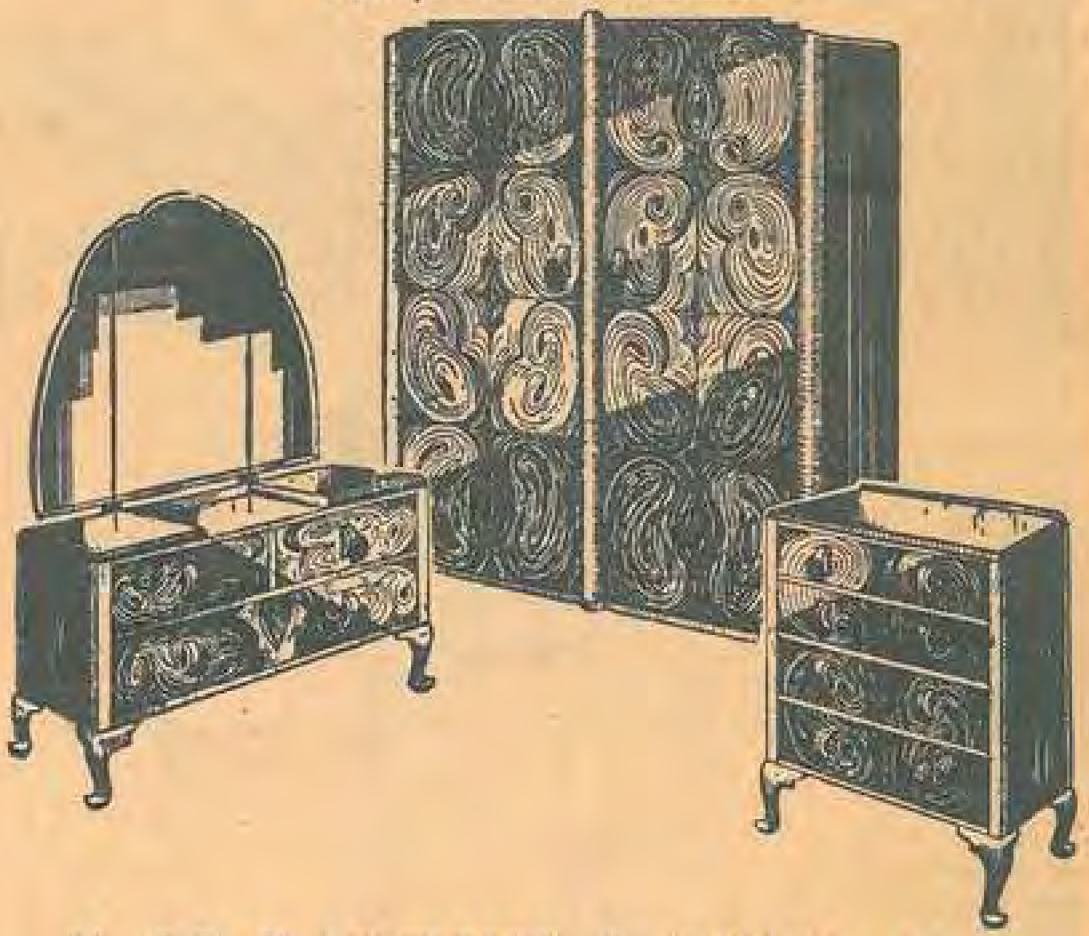

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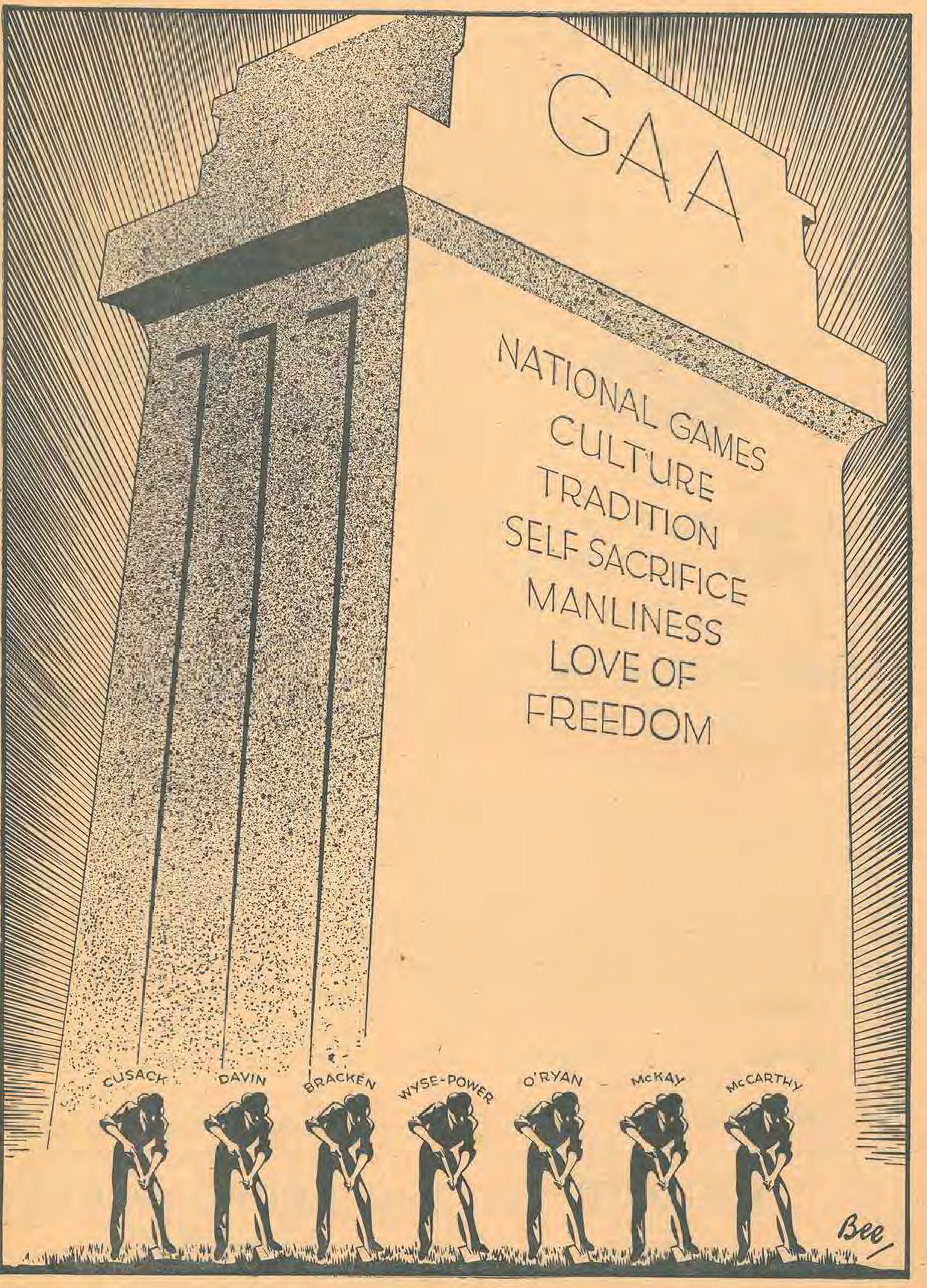
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I HAVE SEEN GREAT HURLING GAMES

"CELT" GOES BACK OVER THE THRILLING YEARS.

HURLING, as the traditional pastime of the Gael, exerts an appeal which few with Irish blood in their veins can resist. Though it is not the most popularly followed of distinctive native games, this annual championship at its climax never fails to draw spectators from every province, profession and pursuit.

There is nothing to be witnessed elsewhere as a spectacle that can thrill like a high-class hurling contest. There is no competitive struggle which presents greater or swifter changes of scene and fortune. Each year, when the climax of contention is reached, and only two of the competing teams are left, the recollections of previous finals reanimate older devotees of the pastime and visions arise of the greatness of former champion teams and outstanding players.

It is a pardonable foible which impels those who have seen earlier contests to exalt the performances of their more fervent years above those of contemporary competition.

Nevertheless, the hurlers of the present day could hold their own with the best of their predecessors in renown.

While the game has altered in none of its fundamentals or in the physical fitness and courage it demands and imparts, it has become faster, more scientific, and is played under conditions which give athleticism full scope for the display of all its essential qualities. It has, at the same time, become more spectacular and enthralling, and, though victory may go to the superior team by a broad margin, the contest itself never fails to hold us tense.

Nine Counties.

The Irish national pastime has been well described as a "fine art," and it certainly needs the basis of all artistry: the natural gift or assiduous practice. In all contests of outstanding merit the natural hurler is invariably conspicuous.

Supreme honours in the Hurling field have been vouchsafed to nine Irish counties, and mastery in the game has been almost exclusively restricted to players from these areas.

Looking back at the championship finals of the past, the predominant features of which grow more vivid in memory as they recede in years, the splendours of many terrific and brilliant contests become almost real. No hurling final has ever lacked its peculiar fascination, for the aspects which the game can present are endless in variety and interest. The more impressive hurling struggles belong to the remoter past. Perhaps there were circumstances associated with them which gave them an enduring glamour. Perhaps it is only the enchantment of distance.

There was the splendid final of 1923, in which Galway won from Limerick—the first deserved reward of unchanging devotion to the traditional Gaelic game. And who can forget the pulsating finish of the previous final in which Kilkenny snatched victory from Tipperary in the last few feverish minutes? An epic might be written about that wonderful struggle.

Passing some great matches between Dublin, Cork and Limerick, go back to 1917 when a superb Dublin team, based upon the University College ("Collegians") players, beat a Boherlahan, Tipperary, selection by a few points.

In the two earlier years Clare and Leix won the All-Ireland championship for the first and only time, so far. Kilkenny, Wexford, and Tipperary held the forefront until we get back to a great epoch for Kilkenny—1904 to 1907. The laurels for these four years went to a succession of brilliant Noreside combinations whose individual fame has been the theme of discerning critics and admiring bards ever since.

Cork looms big in the years preceding 1904, and then we come to the epochal win of a great London exile team of Munster hurlers.

This was in 1903, when the London "Emmets" carried the Hurling title beyond the four seas of Eireann for the first time in history.

Greater, more thrilling still, was the contest between the London "Desmonds" and Tipperary. That contest was a breathless, unforgettable one, in which the exiles' ill-luck and the irrepressible finish of Tipperary gave victory to the home champions.

Tipperary, Limerick, Cork, and Dublin stand earliest out in All-Ireland records, and carry us back to historic Clonturk Park. There was one memorable final played there—that between Kerry and Wexford, when the representatives of these counties battled with Fianna fury and chivalry for ninety minutes, and Kerry won by the last stroke with a surplus of two points when a goal was equivalent to five minors.

The title which these happy victors adorned is again in contention. There is no prouder one in the realm of manly endeavour. The whole period of the existence of the Gaelic Athletic Association is only as an hour compared with the existence of the national pastime of Hurling. Back through ages of unyielding struggle for a distinct racial autonomy, invincible as an expression of vitality, Hurling has given health and hope and joy to our young manhood and kept the eyes of the older generations bright. At its "extremest span" Hurling flourished at the high noon of a free Ireland.

Kilkenny and Cork were entered for the first championship of 1887. Cork was burdened with rival County Boards, with the result that Kilkenny was given a walk-over, and Kilkenny lost in the semi-final to the ultimate winners—Tipperary. In the unfinished championship of 1888, when the Gaelic teams were sent to the United States, Cork sustained defeat by Tipperary, and Kilkenny remained unbeaten.

Kilkenny's leading clubs—Tullaroan, Mooncoin, Three castles—are all in rural areas. The exceptions in both cases have been more conspicuous in recent than in earlier years.

The temptation to recall the outstanding players on the great teams must be resisted. The play of sterling and subtle wielders of the caman must be left to the recollections of those who saw them in action. Their deeds will recur in many minds while the battle is raging in Croke Park, and not one but twenty games will be enacted in the hour. The most enthusiastic Gael is ever a discerning commentator and critic of hurling. His heroes may be demi-gods; but they have first to be heroes.

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"WE ALWAYS CAME BACK"

By
Confederate

That is the secret of Kilkenny's victories; but "Confederate" says they played—not for "their fame in men's mouths"

LONG before the Thurles meeting both hurling and football flourished in Kilkenny. The great teams of Tullaroan, Mooncoin and Three Castles, which were to become so famous were no mushroom teams, and the prowess of Kilkenny before the G.A.A. was formed is testified by the fact that

the first football match ever played under G.A.A. rules was given to Callan and Kilkenny, on February 15, 1885.

Before thousands of spectators, forty-two players fought out a glorious game. The result was a scoreless draw. Perhaps the organising was due to a large extent to the activities of P. J. Ryan, the young Callan solicitor who represented Kilkenny at the Thurles meeting, and thus gave the Nore country a G.A.A. founder. Many of the great athletic meetings held by the Association were staged in the county of Canice and, in 1886, when the G.A.A. was depending for support on tournament meetings, Kilkenny was not omitted.

The fact that in 1886 only two Kilkenny clubs, Castlecomer and Kilcash, were affiliated does not necessarily mean that the games were not advancing. The parishes were playing as they had done in the old days—and preparing.

A Great Tournament.

Kilkenny was ready in 1886. On May 23, a great tournament was held in the Marble City. Callan, the greatest county team at the time, played Waterford to a draw. Strangely enough, the next two matches (football) were also "no wins." Castlecomer and Carrick-on-Suir evened up and our own Kilkenny team was as good as Dalkey.

"Michael Cusack, who refereed, commented on the fact that the Southern teams went in for wrestling in the course of the games."

This practice was discontinued after this, for in the same year the Central Council ruled "that wrestling or handigrips be abolished in football matches." At this meeting, too, it was decided that "the ball going over the end five times was a point."

In 1886, Mr. P. J. O'Keefe was appointed President of Kilkenny Convention and Mr. S. J. Dunleavy secretary.

Kilkenny—Railway Shield and All-Ireland Champions, 1904.

Only eleven more counties had committees at the time, and Kilkenny had over forty clubs, according to the secretary's report at the famous Thurles convention of that year. Now the Kilkenny officers were changed, James Shelly, Callan; Thomas Harrington, Johnstone, and James Herne, Kilkenny, becoming President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Thurles, having beaten **Smith O'Briens**, of Clare, disposed of Tullaroan at Urlingford.

The team that was so soon to become famous went down before the men of Tipperary, beaten by 4 goals, 7 points (one forfeit point) to nil. Thus we missed the All-Ireland.

Some disputes arose in the county convention, but happily these differences were settled at the Thurles convention which, however was destined to split the G.A.A. for a while.

In the year of the unfinished championships, 1888, Kilkenny beat Offaly at Maryborough on June 10, in both hurling and football. Both games were popular here at the time. Mooncoin beat Rathdowney, and Kilmacow accounted for Ballinakill.

Through all the years of Hurling in Kilkenny, Tullaroan have almost consistently won the county championship every second year.

Yet they have always been closely followed by the historic teams—Mooncoin, Confederation and Three Castles. Kilkenny have never won an All-Ireland Football Final. Strange that their neighbours, Kildare, have so often won out in the big-ball game and Kilkenny has stuck to the caman. Well, it's just tradition!

Bennettsbridge now came on top in the county and in .890, with Dan Fraher as referee, were beaten by Wexford at Waterford by 1 goal 3 points to 2 points. On the same day Ballyhale played the Blue-and-Whites, but owing to roughness of play and encroachments by spectators the match was re-drawn for Clonturk Park, Dublin. But after twenty-five minutes play

the Kilkennymen, protesting against the roughness of the game, withdrew from the field.

Rules were tightened up in football after this, but unfortunately the game received a setback in the home county.

In 1891 Kilkenny did not enter the All-Ireland Hurling Championships and it was not until 1893 that they appeared in the final, when Confederation were beaten by Blackrock, of Cork, by 6 goals 8 points to 2 points.

The Kilkenny team was as follows:—D. Whelan (capt.), J. Delaney (goal), J. Grace, J. Lalor, P. Maher, E. Teehan, J. Walsh, M. Coogan, M. Berry, M. Morrissey, J. McCarthy, R. Grace, J. King, J. Doherty, P. Brennan, J. Deloughrey and P. Malone. Mr. J. J. Kenny refereed.

However, Tullaroan represented the county again in 1895 and Kilkenny, not to be denied, appeared in Jones's Road. After a strenuous match against the famous men of Tubberadora, the Tullaroan team scoring only one goal against Tipp's 6-8. But Tullaroan held on. Their home rivals, Confederation, defeated them in the following year but in 1897 they went all out for All-Ireland honours. "Their players were young, active light, and presented a striking difference to the more sturdy Munstermen" when, in 1897, they were beaten by Kilfinane, Limerick, by 3-4 to 2-4. Next year again Three Castles sported the Black-and-Amber at Jones's Road, but Tubberadora beat them by 4-3. Then for five years we dropped out. Great efforts had been made but home disputes and reorganising held up the great rallies.

It was not until 1903 that Three Castles, winning all before them in the county, brought their selection to Dungarvan. One of the finest hurling games in history was played at the old town of the Decies. But Three Castles was vanquished by an overwhelming score. There were men from Tullaroan on the team:—Maher, Walton, Doheny, Haynes, and Saunders, and veterans of Mooncoin, the Fieldings, Doyle and Sinnott, while Keswick was picked from Erin's Own and the champions were represented by Dalton (capt.), Lalor, Murphy, Rochford, Shortall and Grace. The G.A.A. Secretary, L. J. O'Toole, refereed.

It was not until 1906 that the next hurling final was played—Kilkenny's first triumph for All-Ireland Honours. It was the 1904 final. Carrick-on-Suir was the venue. Tullaroan represented Kilkenny and their opponents were the Barrs of Cork. What a final it must have been. What desperate onslaughts must the Ormond men have made to hold that one and only point lead. But they won! One goal nine points, to one goal eight. The Ormond star was in the ascendant. Tullaroan had picked their men as follows:—Jer Doheny (capt.), P. Maher (goal), S. Walton, J. Hoyne, P. Saunders, J. Lawlor (all of Tullaroan); R. Doyle, E. Doyle, P. Fielding, R. Walsh (all of Mooncoin), J. Rochford, D. Grace (of Three Castles), R. Brennan, D. Stapleton, P. Lanigan (Erin's Own) and J. Anthony, the Piltown star.

In 1905, Erin's Own appealed against a decision that awarded the final to the Barrs at Tipperary. Some of the Corkmen's players were alleged to be illegal and the match was replayed. Kilkenny won on the replay at Dungarvan by 7-7 to 2-9.

And now Kilkenny became veritable masters of hurling. Down through the years those famous names stand out, the great teams that have brought glory to the fair land of the three rivers.

The later fights are famous, but our lads have battled not alone for "their fame in men's mouths," they have added lustre to the glory of the G.A.A.

The labours of Alderman Nowlan as President of the Association must not be forgotten—nor the lovely songs of Sliabh-na-mBan (Father Dollard), Kilkenny's greatest Gael.

There were, indeed, thrilling scenes and glorious battles—when the Tullaroan men vanquished Dungourney at Dungarvan (which seems to have been the luckiest ground of all for Kilkenny) in 1907. At Cork, when Tipp. (Thurles) went under to Mooncoin in 1909.

Stern as an Ancient Battle.

As Carbery has described the thrilling contest at Dungarvan:—

"The liquid accents of the Decies come in sweet harmony across the salt-laden air. Thousands of stalwart Kilkennymen have come across the gentle Suir since early morn. They sport their familiar black-and-amber colours. Western trains puff in. Out on the tracks and on the green fields sweep teeming Corkmen . . . . . Music and sunshine, sunshine and music, merry jest and ready repartee; Father Dollard, home from America, to cheer his loved Mooncoin; Pat Magrath and Alderman Nowlan, with willing workers, keeping the surging crowds in control. What a day for memory to feast on, and what a game. 'Twas a white ball. It flew at lightning pace. Bouts of superb hurling were interspersed with classic ground play and severe tackling. All was clean as a whistle but stern as an ancient battle between the clans . . ."

(*Continued on page 69.*)

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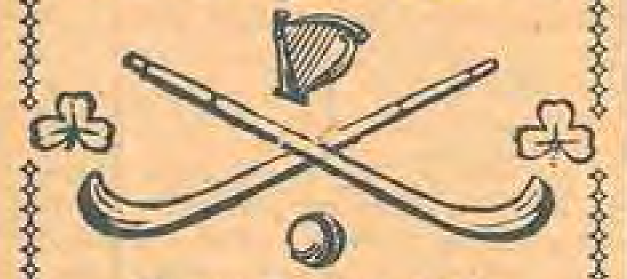

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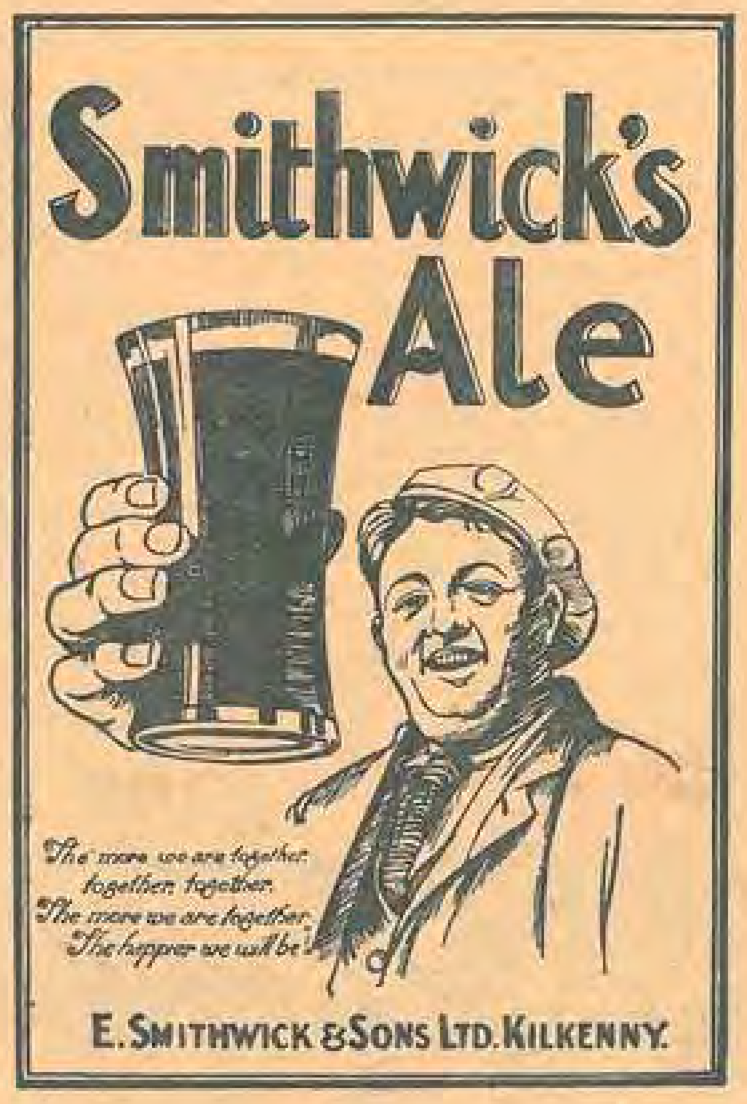

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MEAGHER OF THE SWORD ROUSING WATERFORD!

He and Doheny Led "Hurlers Galore" to Ballybricken

By **Vigilant**

AT the close of half a century's work by the Gaelic Athletic Association it is but natural that Portlairge, like every other county in Ireland, should review and feel some pride in what it has contributed in the preservation of our national games and pastimes. All Ireland rejoices and congratulates the G.A.A. to-day on the attainment of its Golden Jubilee, but despite the fact that Waterford City and County has not figured very strongly in championship finals for All-Ireland honours, there is no doubting the fact that Waterford County has played a very worthy part in the preserving of the games of the Gael down through the centuries, and to do full justice to that honourable record a good-sized book would be required, or even to make mention of many details from the amount of material I have acquired. Waterford City and County hold a more or less interrupted tradition in national pastimes, and it can be stated without fear of contradiction, that in the Western districts of the county that tradition,

notwithstanding all the alien devices for the subversion of native culture and customs, natural pastimes preserved a splendid continuity.

There are old traditional songs and stories of the people full of allusions to the athletic prowess of long-gone heroes and of the great games of hurling and football in County Waterford, and between Tipperary and Waterford, Waterford and Cork, and Waterford and Kilkenny. Even when Waterford was in all the intense excitement of the historic Parliamentary election of 1826,

with O'Connell in the midst of the fight that smashed the power of the Beresfords, and that was really the first blow struck by the voters of Ireland for Catholic Emancipation, there were hurling and football matches and bowling matches going on in the county.

Waterford City remained for a long while the stronghold of national pastimes. In East Waterford and Fahastrogeen, the present Barrack Street, and district, was the centre of great hurling.

It is from this district during the big intercourse of trade between Waterford and Newfoundland that hurling first found its way to North America, in the seventeenth century. Many of the old folk-songs of Waterford relate to Waterford's close connection with Newfoundland.

There was one of these old songs, half of each verse in the Irish language and half in English, recounting the adventures of "The hurlers of Fahastrogeen on the bank of Newfoundland." There was another old song, too, about Waterford's ancient caman craft that was sung to the same air as the old popular song of other days, *"In Sweet Ballybricken there grows a fine bough of a Tree."*

"And Around the Hill!"

No man ever pleaded more frequently or more forcibly for the preservation of Ireland's native games and customs than Thomas Francis Meagher, whose keen sense of all the essential constituents of a nation never became in the least obscured. In the midst of the exciting Parliamentary election of February, 1848,

when he went down to oppose the Whig place-hunters of Conciliation Hall he exhorted the young manhood of the city to go back to "the old Irish games that made men, kept men in Ireland,"

and after a great meeting out at Ballybricken he, with Michael Doheny, led a hurling team on to a field close by, and hoped that when he came there again that he would see "hurlers galore from up the roads and around the hill of Ballybricken." When Meagher did come back again, in May of the same year, and raised the tricolour for the first time there, many stalwart hurlers took part in the enthusiastic reception accorded him. In the previous summer, during the Dungarvan election, he exhorted the people to

stand by their own distinctive traits and customs and games, but famine was then over the land and the words of Meagher and his young Irelanders to prevent the shipping of food from the country were discouraged by the leaders of the "moral force" party that held the ear of the people.

The years of famine, eviction and emigration gave the social life of the country a most decisive set-back, and Waterford County, though on the whole not quite so stricken as many other counties, suffered much. With the resiliency of the race, the people rallied with whatever improvement came in their condition. In the 'fifties and 'sixties there was plenty of hurling and other forms of native sports in West Waterford, where the old

game of bowling was very popular and there were some big inter-county matches with Cork and Tipperary.

There were sturdy upholders of our national pastimes among the leaders and the rank and file of the Fenians throughout the country, and Cashman, Dillon, Kenny, Clancy and others in Waterford City and County, were no exceptions.

One of the last and greatest of the old-time hurling matches in Waterford took place near Knockhouse in March, 1866,

between a team of twenty-one players from the city and twenty-one players from Kilmacthomas district. Bowling contests came into great prominence in the 'seventies in West Waterford, when Terry's Pike, near Dungarvan; Brown's Pike, on the Lismore Road, were leading centres and the Brothers Pottle, Meany, Cowman, the Powers, Fraher, Norris and Burke, leading exponents in the art of driving and "lofting" the iron ball. Waterford was always well to the fore in jumpers and weight-throwers, and sprinters, and in the well-remembered

Dan Fraher, of Dungarvan, Ireland had her first all-round athletic champion from the contest decided at Youghal on December 2nd, 1883.

The Rise of the G.A.A.

When the Gaelic Athletic Association was launched on November 1, 1884, Waterford city and county made ready response to the call. The late Dan Fraher was then the leading athlete in Waterford county and one of the best known sportsmen in Ireland. From the propaganda which had appeared in Nationalist weekly newspapers, the ground was well prepared, and in Waterford city

Mr. W. G. Fisher had been doing great work in his own weekly newspaper, "The Munster Express."

Waterford also had the honour of supplying the venue for the first athletic championship's meeting under the auspices of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

This notable event took place at Tramore on October 6, 1885, and a special Silver Cup, presented by Archbishop Croke, was among the many prizes. Michael Cusack, Secretary, and Maurice Davin, President, and many other prominent members of the Association were present, and many of the leading athletes of the time competed, including Mitchell of Emly and Dan Fraher of Dungarvan.

One of the biggest gatherings in connection with the early days of the G.A.A. in Waterford assembled for the county football championship ties at Kilmacthomas on Sunday, March 6, 1887. All the leading Gaels in the county were present, and Michael Cusack journeyed down from Dublin on the occasion.

There were about 12,000 people present, which was a vast gathering for such a small town in days of rather limited travelling facilities.

Mr. Marshall, of the County Board, who refereed, caused some disappointment by giving a wrong decision in the excitement in favour of Kilrossenty. The game was replayed at Dungarvan on Sunday, June 29, before a very large attendance, and it is notable that this occasion was the first when club colours were worn in profusion by their respective followers. Ballyduff's green and gold was well sported, as was also Kilrossenty's white flannel. Mr. Marshall was again referee, and another great contest ended in victory for Ballyduff amid a scene of tremendous enthusiasm.

This was the first championship decided in Waterford under the auspices of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and how the championship ties went between the contestants will be interesting to Waterford men to-day:

1st Round: Kilrossenty beat Portlaw; Clonea beat Windgap; Kilmacthomas beat Rathgormack; Waterford (Commercials) beat Fenor; Butlerstown beat Callaghan; Dungarvan beat Stradbally; Ballyduff Lower a walk over, Tallow a bye.

2nd Round: Kilrossenty beat Dungarvan; Ballyduff beat Kilmacthomas; Waterford (Commercials) beat Clonea; Butlerstown beat Tallow.

3rd Round: Kilrossenty beat Waterford (Commercials); Balyduff beat Butlerstown.

Final: Ballyduff beat Kilrossenty. On to the All-Ireland championship.

As was then the rule, the winning individual club team of twenty-one players represented the county in the ties for the All-Ireland championship, and so the responsibility devolved upon Ballyduff for Waterford county.

Athletes All.

On Sunday, July 24th, the semi-finals of the first All-Ireland Football Championship were brought off successfully before a big gathering of spectators at Merrion grounds. Limerick "Commercials" defeated Meath (Dowdstown) in their tie and Louth (Dundalk "Young Irelands") defeated Waterford after a great game in which the scores were 1 goal 6 points and 2 forfeit points to 3 points and 1 forfeit point. The following comprised the Ballyduff team that first brought Waterford into an All-Ireland Football Championship semi-final: Tom Nolan (capt.), Michael Power, Patrick Carroll, Patrick Power, Richard Phelan, John Murphy, James Griffin, John Power, Thomas Hearne, James Nolan, James Norris, Patrick Quinlan, Michael Kearney, Patrick Baldwin, John Morrissy, Robert Phelan, John Foley, John Kavanagh, Patrick Burke, Thomas Hearn, Michael Phelan. Referee, James Halpin (afterwards M.P. for Clare county).

Of course the Waterford city and county teams took part in many tournaments in the counties of Kilkenny, Wexford, Tipperary and Cork in these early days. The first exhibition for the revival of hurling was given at a big tournament at the Waterford city grounds, the "Bully Acre," in the match between Mooncoin and Carrick-on-Suir in 1887. There was scarcely an athlete of note that did not patronise the many big athletic meetings in the city and county from 1885 onwards.

As in other counties, the games in Waterford have had an uphill fight. The split in the ranks in 1887-8 gave it a set-back from which it did not recover, as well as other countries, and then a worse crisis came with the "Parnell Split" of 1890.

East Waterford, with the exception of one or two clubs in the city, completely fell away for a long number of years. In 1898 Waterford won the Munster senior Football Championship when Dungarvan's "Erin's Hope" secured the distinction, but they were beaten by Dublin "Geraldines" in the All-Ireland Final. In 1931, Waterford won Munster and All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championships. In Minor Hurling Championships Waterford were victorious in Munster and the All-Ireland in 1931.

Within the past ten years Waterford has made rapid strides in hurling from senior to minor grades and has established itself as one of our foremost counties at the great national game.

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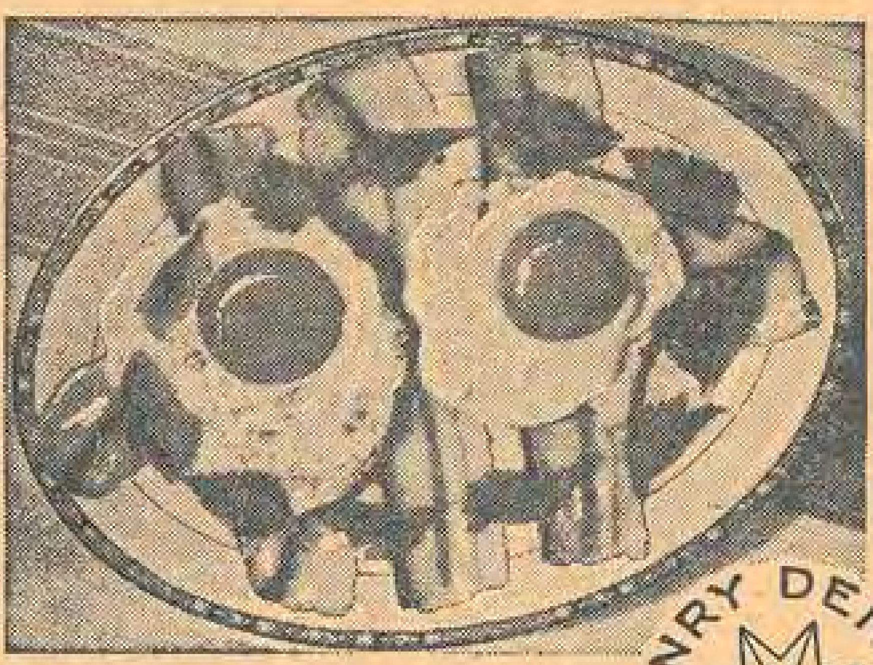

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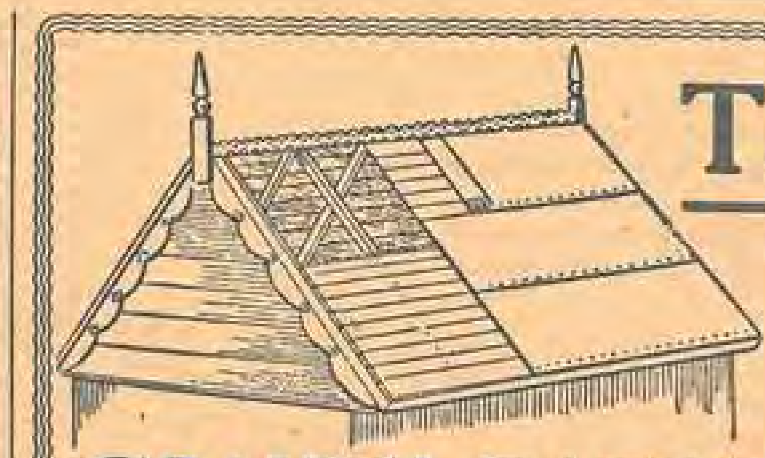

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WE ALWAYS CAME BACK

(Continued from page 66.)

The years of the wars for freedom were void ones for our hurlers—and our footballers, for, indeed, latterly the football game is livening up.

That great Gael, Sliabh Ruadh (Phil O'Neill), has in his G.A.A. history chronicled much of the rest of our story. But can we not remember with pride the great thrilling contests with those gallant and worthy rivals, the rebels of Cork.

The final of 1931, after two herculean struggles, with every man on the teams of two great hurling counties strung to the utmost, baffles adequate description.

To-day in Kilkenny, the home of champions, the game is safe. But our Gaels would do well to look back on the glorious and dauntless struggles of loved Mooncoin and splendid Callan and the reckless, deathless daring of Tullaroan; those great hearts would answer our questioning, in the shy and musical accent of Kilkenny, with the simple words: "We always came back."

Kerry versus New York Selected, at Polo Grounds, N.Y.

THE FORESTERS BROUGHT HURLING TO FERMANAGH

"Matches Were Arranged at All Sorts of Places"

By

Loughside

THE early days of Gaelic Football in the County are shrouded in a darkness that is difficult to overcome. Undoubtedly the efforts of the founders of the Association in 1884 and subsequent years had the effect of making some people in Fermanagh realise that there was some little thing they could do to stop the rush of denationalisation that had set in throughout the county of the Maguires. The efforts of these good people had no apparent effect until the year 1888 or thereabouts. Then we find a great number of clubs springing up all over the Southern part of the county. Newtownbutler led off; their selection of a name places this beyond doubt. Newtownbutler's "First Fermanaghs" deserve the thanks of the Gaels of the county for setting the G.A.A. in motion in the county. Then came the Lisnaskea **Grattans**, Derrylin **John Mitchels**, Rosslea **Faugh-a-Ballaghs**, Clanmaulin, or Donagh Sons of Erin, and there seems to have been a team at Drumlone called the "**Lough-Side Leaguers.**"

A County Committee was never thought of; matches were arranged at all sorts of places, fairs, markets, and at any place there was a gathering of people from the areas concerned.

Some stirring matches were played in those days of 21 aside. Journeying round the country, old men will point out to this day the venue of some of the eventful matches.

Every kick is remembered, and the scorers are local heroes till the present day.

Families of Footballers.

Most of the players during this period are forgotten. Many of them, indeed, have gone to their eternal reward. *Go ndeanaidh Dia trochaire ar a n-arramacha.* But there are a few names that will be remembered on account of their prowess on the playing pitch. Fermanagh has always had its family of noted footballers. At this period the brothers P. and F. Curry played for the Derrylin "John Mitchells." They were regarded as the leading footballers on the Southern side of Lough Erne. McAloone, of the same team, is often held up as an example to the young footballers of to-day. On the Northern side of the Lake the Donagh or Clanmaulin "Sons of Erin" had their quota of well-remembered players: the brothers John and James Rennick, with the aid of Breadbarrow, McDonald, and Teague, made this the outstanding team on their side of the Lake. Beatty and McCaffery were notable players in Newtownbutler "First Fermanaghs." The Rosslee "Faugh-a-Ballaghs" at that time played in black and white horizontal stripes, and it is said the team were of such uniform size that when they were lined up a person would think that the stripes were continuous from one end of the line of players to the other.

It is to be regretted that the enthusiasm for the game did not keep it going in the county during the latter period of the last century. Teams on the border of Monaghan and Cavan played a match now and then with their friends in the adjoining county, but these matches were few and far between.

Gaelic games survived in this disjointed manner until early in the present century. In October, 1902, the juvenile branch of the Irish National Foresters, Enniskillen, decided to establish a hurling team in the town. This was the first appearance, in organised form, of the Association in the island town.

Success does not seem to have favoured this effort, for early in the following year we find the county without any Gaelic clubs. This, surely, was a case of the darkest hour before the dawn, for during 1903 we find the two brothers, Bob and Tom White, take an interest in the state of affairs. These true Gaels came from Tipperary, and, of course, their chief interest was in hurling. They, with the aid of a number of local Gaels, set the foundation stone of the O'Neill G.A.A. Club in Enniskillen. Their efforts were crowned with success, and on the second day of Christmas, 1903, Enniskillen witnessed its first inter-county hurling match. Manorhamilton Shamrocks were the visitors. The Fermanagh men won by 1 goal 5 points to the Leitrim men's 1 point.

The Fermanagh team included W. Jones, T. Whyte, M. Sweeney , J. Smith (3), T. McManus, J. McManus, J. Carleton, C. McKeown, J. Nethercott, W. Hanly, M. D. Ward, R. A. Whyte, J. Fox, O. Corrigan, and W. Murphy.

Mr. P. O'Sullivan refereed the match.

On the 24th January, 1904, the return match was played at Manorhamilton, and the result reversed. A short book could be written on the players' adventures travelling to and from this match.

Fruitful Years.

The year 1904 seems to have been Fermanagh's most successful year in organising the Gaelic Athletic Association in the county. From the outset things began to move in the right direction. In April of that year another hurling club was organised at Ashwoods called "The Maguires." Over 1,000 spectators attended football and hurling matches on that ground on 26th June, 1904.

Efforts that were being made to establish a County Committee at last bore fruit, and on 4th July, 1904, a meeting of Gaels from different parts of the country met at Enniskillen and decided to form a County Committee. The following Officers were appointed:—Chairman, Mr. R. A. Whyte; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Flanagan; Treasurer, Mr. Jos. Hackett; Secretary, Mr. R. Corrigan. Others present were Messrs. J. Calligan, J. McManus, Jas. Owens, J. Grimes, T. McManus, C. McKeown, M. Sweeney, Thos. Whyte, and W. J. Nethercott.

Both hurling and football championships were started. Teemore Shamrocks won the football event in 1904, and the Enniskillen O'Neills won the hurling.

Early in 1905 Fermanagh travelled to Carrickmacross to play Monaghan in the Ulster Football Championship. The Fermanagh players were:—E. McGurrin, F. Curry, M. Martin, B. Kelly, T. Clarke, T. P. Clarke, and J. Martin (Shamrocks); P. Sheehan, J. McCarthy, and P. Faulkner (O'Neills); C. Murphy, N. Corrigan, N. J. Corrigan, and H. Murphy (Art McMurroughs); J. Reilly, F. McManus, and Geo. Wilson (Sons of Erin).

Monaghan won by 4 points to 1 point.

The "Fermanagh Bribe."

At a meeting of the Irish Federation of Association Football, held in Belfast early in September, 1906, it was decided to give the Fermanagh League a grant of £50 "for the combating of Gaelic football in the county."

This action alone shows the progress of the Gaelic games in the county. Later in the month a merchant in Enniskillen was offered £10 for the purpose of establishing a Soccer club: he refused.

From this until 1920 the Association flourished in the county. Hurling, as well as football, was played. G.A.A. clubs were at one time and another formed in almost every town and village in the county, and, indeed, some of the strongest teams came from rural areas. During these years Teemore Shamrocks dominated the football arena, and Enniskillen O'Neills were the leaders in hurling, although they were often sorely tried by the Coa "O'Dwyers" and Ashwoods "Maguires."

Several first-class footballers came to the fore in this period, and, as usual, one family had the monopoly: the Clarke family in their time did more for football than all the other footballers put together. Mr. J. P. Clarke, who for many years was chairman of the County Committee, played in almost every position of the county team. His brothers Terence, Luke and John J. have proved themselves amongst Ireland's best in the football arena. The last-named is presently Secretary to Cavan Co. Committee, and has often played on their county selection.

Re-Shuffling.

Then came another set-back for the Association in the county in 1922. Most of the people connected with any National movement were arrested or compelled to go "on the run." Matters continued in this dormant state until 1924, when an effort to re-organise the county resulted in a meeting being held in Lisnaskea on 9th March, 1924. Mr. B. C. Fay, Secretary, Ulster Council, presided. A provisional committee was appointed to take charge of the G.A.A. affairs of the county. A short time afterwards a county committee was established. Mr. J. P. Clarke was appointed Chairman and Mr. C. Smyth Secretary. Under the care of these staunch workers the Association soon regained lost ground, and it is entirely due to their unselfish efforts that the county is in such a strong position to-day.

In 1930 Fermanagh won their first inter-county trophy, when they won the Most Rev. Dr. McKenna Cup from Derry, Tyrone and Donegal.

In 1933 they re-won this coveted trophy in an open competition. During these last years the Fermanagh team has been slowly improving, and again one family gives the county team their strength. On at least one occasion during the past few years there have been five McDonnell brothers on the team, and presently Tommy, Charlie and Eamonn are amongst the first selected. Eamonn, who is the youngest and yet a schoolboy, is captain. He also captained the Ulster College last year when they won the All-Ireland Colleges final, and was also a member of the same team on the previous year, when they won the All-Ireland title. Both Tommy and Charlie have played for Ulster in the Railway Cup competition.

It is to be regretted that hurling has not made the advance in the county that football has, but of late successful efforts are being made to revive this great game.

Civilisation.

"A nation might be said to be a collection of human beings, knitted together by certain characteristics which they held in common; a common history, a common language, a common literature, a common character, common ideas, in fact all those things which go to make up what we call civilisation.—*P. H. PEARSE.*

TIPPERARY'S AMERICAN TOUR

(Continued from Page 52).

A full day was spent viewing the Falls, both from the American and Canadian side.

Splendid and impressive as they are by day, they are much more so at night when illuminated by one million candle-power electric lights of many changing colours which play upon them.

Having left Niagara we next came to Detroit, the "one-man town" of Henry Ford. A period of prevailing depression had closed his factory to our visitors. A reception at City Hall was given us by Hon. Mayor Frank Murphy (since made Governor of the Philippine Islands) to whom Capt. Leahy presented a camán suitably inscribed. The game at Detroit was of a lower standard than those previous, due chiefly to a want of man power to keep the code alive in the cities of the Middle East.

Next came Chicago. "Windy City" was as to a second home, so numerous were the friends we met from every part of Ireland. His Eminence Cardinal Mundelein received Fr. Meagher, our chaplain, and through him sent his blessing to the boys. Rev. Fr. Joe Kiely, a Pastor of Chicago, and a Tipperary man, took great interest in the team and showed great kindness to them. This was a very nice feature of our visit here. On arrival at Chicago we had a civic welcome at the City Hall from the late Mayor Cermak, and at night a great *ceilidhe* was given by the Irish Societies, under the direction of Attorney Patrick Cahil of Holy Cross. More exciting still was the aeroplane ride over the big city. All the boys participated.

Chicago had loomed large in their minds as the "Windy City," the city of the big noises and of the underworld, but the only noise heard by the visitors was that of the wind blowing strongly across Lake Michigan.

The game in San Francisco was very well contested, and was most interesting, having been played under electric light! Shades of Harold's Cross! It was not greyhounds—no, it was men,

the hurling men of two great nations passing, surging up and down—for it was as bright as day, and only the clock told that it was night.

The journey home was very interesting. The long silent spaces of Arizona, the night lights of Mexico glittering from the border nearby, the winter sunshine of Texas, the broadening waters of the Mississippi—these and many other attractions whiled away the long hours that passed before New York claimed us again. We were now more full of trepidation than ever: the final tussle was nigh; the great trophy, the Mayor Walker Cup, was at stake. And so

the dour struggle began and came to an end—a great end—say it with pride—Victory for Ireland!!

It was no merry scene that last good-bye. "The crowds were still there, but the smiles had all gone!" To heavy hearts and tear-dimmed eyes the big buildings gradually fretted out of view and shortly the great ocean surrounded us once more. The sea voyage home was lonely, but it was a welcome rest from a long and strenuous tour, and a much-needed bracing-up for the all-embracing welcome of the Old Folks at Home.

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B. C, FAY
Sec. Ulster Council

ALMOST coinciding with the inauguration of the G.A.A. we find the first mention of an inter-club football match in County Cavan. This game was played at Cavan town in December, 1884, and the contesting teams were Ballyconnell (Colours—Black, Red and Yellow) and Bailieboro' (Colours—Red with Green Shamrock). The result of this match is not on record for the probable reason that it was not played to a finish—the players and spectators being driven from the field by a large force of the R.I.C. Though little definite regarding clubs or matches during the following two years can be stated it is safe to assume that the Ballyconnell Club continued in existence and sprang into renewed life when the G.A.A. called for the allegiance of the men of the North. Mr. Thos. O'Reilly (still hale and hearty) affiliated with the G.A.A. a club which he called the Ballyconnell First Ulsters—a name still borne by the club. This affiliation—the first in Ulster as the name implies, was quickly followed by others in various parts of the county, and thus early the foundation was laid for a strong and virile county unit of the great Association. In West Cavan we find, in those early years, clubs springing up here and there throughout the area—Kildalton Wolfe Tones, Anna Sons of Usna, Milltown Owen Roes, Mullaghroan Dreadnoughts, to mention only a few.

Little Corner of Ulster.

Nor was East Cavan slow to answer the call. When the noble idea of resuscitating the children of the Gael was conceived, and when from the Cathedral town of Thurles the newly-formed organisation spread northwards it gained strength in the South-East corner of Ulster. In Mullagh patriotic Gaels, T. P. McKenna, C.C.; and Michael Monaghan, N.T., heard its message and set about establishing a Gaelic Athletic Club, including a Gaelic Football and Athletics—"The Mullagh Breffni Club." A sports meeting held under the auspices of the Mullagh Club on 1st November, 1887, was, I believe, the first, not only in Co. Cavan but in Ulster, under Gaelic Rules. To that meeting thronged thousands, old and young, to witness the various contests, and some of those who competed there became famous on the athletic fields in various branches of sport—J. P. McCabe who, at Thurles, ran the world-famous T. P. Conniff to the tape and afterwards won the Cross-Country Championship of Ireland in the fastest time, before or since; Chas. A. O'Brien, Virginia (now of Cavan), famous as a sprinter, and Michael Fox (now N.T., Kill), a noted walker and footballer and the first Ulster man to gain a place on the Erin's Hope team, Dublin, where his dashing forward play in the Dublin football championships of 1890-92 was a treat to witness.

Mullagh Football Club, with James Clinton as captain, played their first friendly match with Kill's "Campaigners" on the race-course at Loyd in 1888. Kill's team was victorious but Mullagh reversed the scores at the return match in Mullagh. This game at Mullagh was the first played under G.A.A. rules in East Cavan and memorable scenes of enthusiasm were witnessed on the occasion—old men and women seemed to regain their youthful vigour and, with the enthusiasm of youth, joined with their youthful companions in the tumultuous uproar that greeted the victors.

Soon other parishes in East Cavan organised—Bailieboro' (this was rather a reorganisation) through the efforts of Messrs. Carroll, Farrelly, and Donnelly, established the "Home Rulers"; Maghera the "Mac Finns," through Messrs. Tighe and Mulvanny; Virginia, the "Sarsfields," through the exertions of Messrs. Mulligan, N.T., and C. A. O'Brien, and soon followed Knockbride and Mountnugent. A County Committee was formed in 1888, with Mr. T. P. McKenna, Mullagh, as chairman; Mr. M. Monaghan, N.T., Mullagh, secretary, and Mr. Mulligan, N.T., Virginia, treasurer. Mr. Mulligan was a noted referee in those early days, and his son, Tommy, was one of the best footballers that ever played on Cavan county team.

A County Championship Athletic meeting under the auspices of the newly-formed Cavan Slashers Club was held in Cavan in August, 1888. This was a red-letter day in Cavan Gaeldom and was often spoken of as the "Gaelic Invasion" of that town. The most notable winners at that meeting were C. A. O'Brien, who won the 100 yards; M. Fox, Kill, the mile walk in 7 mins. 39 secs. from a field of 30; J. P. McCabe, Blackrock, the half mile and mile; and P. Monahan, Mullagh, the 220 yards and hurdles. Anna beat Mullagh in a football match which concluded the day's programme. Messrs. Gannon and J. F. O'Hanlon were the promoters of the meeting, and the former presented the medals at the finish.

Famous Old Clubs.

The first football championship, in 1889, was won by the Maghera Mac Finns under their hefty captain, William Mulvanny. Clubs, in addition to those named, were then in existence in Belturbet, Killeshandra, Lacken, Castletarra, Drumlane Cross and Bawnboy. Towards the end of 1890 the game for various reasons began to decline in Cavan and the clubs in most parishes became dormant. But a great revival set in again in 1900, when the following Gaels met in Cavan to re-form the county committee—Messrs. J. F. O'Hanlon, Cavan; B. O'Reilly and M. Fitzpatrick, Drumlane; A. McEntee, Cavan; P. Reilly, Cavan (now Treasurer, County Committee, G.A.A., and Secretary, County Council); M. Fox, N.T., Kill, and Joe Smyth, Cavan. Mr. J. F. O'Hanlon was elected County President, and arrangements were made to restart the clubs and re-establish the county championship. The prowess of the prominent clubs of that period is still spoken of whenever old Gaels meet—Drumlane Sons of O'Connell, led by the famous Terry Maguire, Lacken Celtic, with Peter Maguire as captain; Cavan Slashers, Virginia, Bailieboro', Belturbet, Castletarra, Anna, Kildallon, Ballyconnell, Cross, Mullagh, Mullaghoran and Killeshandra (Terry O'Reilly, captain). Those who filled the principal offices of the county committee were as follows:—Presidents—T. P. McKenna, J. F. O'Hanlon, J. P. Johnston, A. McEntee, B. C. Fay, P. MacSeain and J. Gilheany. Secretaries—M. Monahan, A. McEntee, P. MacSeain, P. Ruddy, E. Smyth, P. Leonard, B. C. Fay, J. J. Clarke.

"Deserve—If Not Command."

It is peculiar to note that the hurling game, which was widely played and known as "Camáns" in the county prior to the establishment of the G.A.A., became practically extinct when the enthusiasm for football was generated. In Belturbet and Cavan alone has it survived. It is also being fostered at the present time in Kill and in Cornafean (where a great football team has been built up during the past twelve or fourteen years).

The work of the early pioneers of the G.A.A. in County Cavan has borne good fruit, for to-day Cavan holds the proud position of All-Ireland champions—a position that perhaps few of them visualised and none dared hope for. Their work was great and unselfish and ever they kept before them the motto—"'Tis not in mortals to command success but we'll do more—deserve it!"

"NOTHING EQUAL."

"NOTHING since the old Isthmian and Olympic Games has been seen to equal the energy and passion, the skill and science, the temper and self-control, of a modern Irish game. To see these fine young fellows, full of strength and vitality, braving all weathers and testing every organ, nerve and muscle in the pursuit of victory, is certainly enough to make an old man young again.

—From the late Canon Sheehan's "Parerga."

GALWAY-TIPP. FINAL, 1887.

THE teams dressed at Cunningham's Hotel and marched to and from the field under command of Meelick's captain, Lynam, who had been an officer in the American Army, and in the 'nineties unsuccessfully contested East Galway in the Parnellite interest against the late John Roche, M.P. Mr. Lynam, though captain, was not a playing member of his club.

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GALWAY MINORS—FINALISTS, 1931.

When Dundalk and Drogheda Match Even—Louth Becomes Dangerous

The Tredaghs—Champions of Ireland 1911-'12.

LOUTH—From Duleek Gate, Drogheda, to Gile's Quay, Greenore, is but 40 short miles in length, its greatest width being hardly 12 miles. Within this "wee" area there are two of the largest provincial towns in Ireland, whose people are continually in opposition to each other—denying the others position while claiming supremacy. This has engendered a healthy rivalry and imbued the respective citizens with a commendable civic pride. The outside world would be advised to pay heed to this trait.

BY

Ald. Tom Burke

Drogheda, situated on the banks of the Boyne at the extreme southern end of the County, is two-thirds Louth, one-third Meath. It has proved an unhappy but healthy alliance and the keenest form of rivalry has ever existed between the teams hailing from either side. This has helped to sharpen the enthusiasm and is a contributing factor in maintaining the standard of the football produced by the teams from old Tredagh.

In a like manner the teams from the southern end of the County imbued with an inherent desire to score over the teams from the northern end and vice-versa, hence when the standard is high in both ends, the County figures well in inter-county contests.

It is a greater honour, almost, for a Drogheda team to defeat a Dundalk team than it would be to win a provincial championship. When there is no effort required to accomplish this feat, the standard of football within the county is low.

At one period the footballers from the Meath side of Drogheda took part in the Meath championship, and whether, as a coincidence or as a result, there was no championship played in Louth during those years.

The Coming of Cusack.

In 1885 Mr. Cusack, founder of the G.A.A., visited Drogheda and, accompanied by Fathers Anderson and Kearney and a large following of the young men of Drogheda, proceeded to Shamrock Lodge, about a mile north of the town. In a field lent by Mr. Thomas Greene, Manimore, Drogheda, a meeting was held which was presided over by Father Anderson, who introduced Mr. Cusack. The G.A.A. was there and then established in Drogheda.

It is the proud boast of the Droghedan that from that day to the present the enthusiasm for the G.A.A. has never waned.

Dundalk has played its part in the spreading and fostering of love for the G.A.A. There have been gaps in Dundalk's allegiance, but nevertheless Dundalk has been Louth's right hand. In combination with the Gaels of Drogheda and Ardee, Louth has been enabled to climb the rugged path to fame. The jubilee year may prove the starting point for another forward drive, and the effort would be worth while.

Founder Referees First Match.

The first match played under G.A.A. rules in Louth took place at Tullyallen, Drogheda, on April 11, 1886, between Young Irelands (Dundalk) and Tullyallen. The match ended in a scoreless draw. Mr. M. Cusack was the referee. The names of the players being:—Young Irelands—John Lennon (Goal) (Capt.); Dowdall, E. Goodman (Lieutenants); H. Fagan, James Campbell, and John Finegan (Whips); M. J. Carroll (Vice-Capt.); J. McKeon, M. Warren, E. McAlister, M. Robb, M. Ward, J. Hughes, B. Wheatley, M. Connor, Hamill, P. Fitzgerald, V. Wynne, P. McCrane, J. Henry. Tullyallen:—J. Leonard (Capt.); T. Brannigan (Vice-Capt.); J. Colgan, T. Morgan, T. Halligan, P. Bellew, P. Berrill, O. Russell, J. Doggette, J. Devin, W. Moonan, M. Berrill, T. Halligan, P. Tuite, J. Pentony, J. Carter, W. Farrell, P. Taaffe, P. McGuinness, J. McGuinness, P. Pentony.

The records set that game down as the first great game played in Louth under the G.A.A. code. I have found in the course of my search that a game of football was played at Drogheda the day that Mr. Cusack addressed the meeting at Shamrock Lodge, and it may be taken for granted that the Young Irelands must have played some games before they travelled to play Tullyallen.

The Young Irelands Society is still flourishing in Dundalk, but the football club has long gone out of existence.

It is interesting to note that the Young Irelands and Tullyallen have affiliated a team for the Louth championship this year. Sometime, somewhere in the course of our present-day games, one will hear the cry "Tullyallen" or "Give it Tullyallen." Here is the origin of that saying:—

When the Tullyallen team scored a goal (in those days no number of points equalled a goal), all the players went back and lined up in front of their goal and kicked the ball across the touchlines to delay time. That was the Tullyallen method.

Louth's Senior Football Team.

Young Irelands went on to the final of the All-Ireland Championship in 1887 with Limerick Commercials. The final scores were:—Limerick, 1-4; Louth (Y.I.), 0-3.

There was no championship played in Louth from 1891 to 1894 (inclusive). There was a revival of activities in 1895. The championship finals were contested by Drogheda teams in 1895, '96 and '97. In 1898 the Boyne Rangers were unopposed. There was no championship in 1899. In 1900 Mr. Larry Stanley, the veteran Gael, was instrumental in setting the ball rolling again. Larry brought together all the footballers of Drogheda and formed the "Independents," which combination held the Louth Championship for three years. The "Independents" team reached the final of the Leinster Championship, but it was beaten by Kilkenny. The inauguration in 1904 of Junior football as we know it to-day brought into being the famous combinations, Tradaghs and Stars, both from Drogheda.

These teams fought for supremacy in Drogheda, the Tredaghs winning, and there followed for a period of twelve years the most glorious chapter in the G.A.A. annals in Louth.

The games played are too numerous to relate in this survey, suffice it to say Louth reached the Senior All-Ireland Final in 1909, won it in 1910 and 1912; Junior Championship of Leinster in 1910, and lost the first All-Ireland Junior Championship to Tipperary in 1912.

They won the Croke Cup in 1913 from Cork; lost it to Cork in 1914. Who has not heard of the Croke Memorial games of 1913 and the games between Louth and Kerry that made possible the purchase of our national stadium? About this time the Irish Volunteer force was being raised.

Rifles as Trophies.

As a means of preparing men for "the day," a tournament named the "Wolfe Tone Memorial" was inaugurated, trophies for which were to be a rifle for each man.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, the competition was not finished before Easter (1916), so the trophies took another form. Louth won the Tournament. Since 1918, when Louth reached the Leinster final with Wexford, the County Senior team has not been so prominent in the All-Ireland Championships. Meanwhile, the Junior teams have won the All-Ireland in 1925 and 1932, and runners-up in 1928. And the Minor team reached the All-Ireland final in 1931 and was beaten in the Leinster final in 1932. However, the Senior team won the four-County League in 1924 and 1925, and again in 1933, under new rules. The Saul Cup competition was won in 1932.

Of the footballers who played in the earliest years of the G.A.A. in Louth, P. Mangan, C. Burke, T. Hinchey, F. Meskel (Gaelics); Carter, Foley, and Carton (Davitts); Rath (Clogherhead), Rourke, Goodman, and Carroll (Young Irelands), are names frequently mentioned.

Later on:—Peter McCann (Boyne Rangers), afterwards played with the Geraldines, Dublin; Thos. Quinn (Boyne Rangers); R. Piggott, L. Stanley (Gaelics). Later still: Jack Carvin (Drogheda); Henry Collins (Dundalk); Dan O'Connell (Dundalk); "Windsor" O'Hare (Dundalk); P. L'Estrange, Paddy McKeon, the Donegans, the McDonnells, "Bill" Sherry, Jack Clarke, Paddy Cluskey, Johnnie Gerrard, P. Mulligan (N.T.), Jas. Harrison, Finnity (al from Drogheda); Markey, J. Mathews, Dulnne and Ward (Ardee).

Of these, McCann, Carvin and Sherry were outstanding men, and these helped Dublin to win several All-Irelands. Carvin and Sherry are still keen students at all our games.

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Until Dublin Cailini began to swing camogs in 1904

Ireland's Girlhood march into Croke Park. Tailteann Games, 1932.

THOUGH not in affiliation with the Gaelic Athletic Association, the Irishwomen's National Athletic and Camoguidheacht Association, founded in 1904, may be said to be the sister association of the G.A.A. The game as played is a modified form of hurling. The stick is called a camog and the number of players making a team is twelve. The origin of the game was due in the first instance to a few Gaels who at the time deplored the fact that there was no national pastime for the women of Ireland.

That women should play outdoor games at all was, in fact, a matter that few people saw eye-to-eye with at the time.

Indeed, it can with truth be said that it required the greatest moral courage for any girl to take her camog to the practising ground.

Dublin Begins.

The Gaels of the period were, however, adamant and in a short time two teams were got together, and between them regular practices were held. A certain amount of progress was made and **at Navan on July 18, 1904, the first game was played on the occasion of an aeridheacht and two thousand spectators attended.**

A Press report of the game said:—" A camoguidheacht match was played, which is regarded as a novelty, and may be remarked as the first inter-club contest ever played in Ireland. Both teams were composed of cailini and belong to Dublin. The game, which aroused considerable excitement, resembles hurling, the ground being marked out something like an ordinary football field; the camog or hurling stick being much lighter and less dangerous than the ordinary camans."

Later, practice games were continued and another game was played at Drumcondra on October 8th of that year. During the period from 1904 to 1906 four teams were formed and a League competition was initiated. This was looked on as a success, but **for some unknown reason, the competition was allowed to lapse and for some years afterwards, the game had ceased to exist.**

Crokes Foster It.

About this period the Croke Gaelic Athletic club was formed and, along with other clubs, included camoguidheacht in its programme.

This club might well be said to be the real enthusiasts so far as the game was concerned.

Kevins, Columcills and other clubs then formed teams. The competition was run as was the case a few years before by Cuchullians, Ard Craobh, Keatings, Dundrum Volunteers and Lucan Sarsfields. Games on the League system were not now a regular feature but as aeridheachta were popular during the summer months **advantage was taken of the national gatherings to have a camoguidheacht game included.**

Pressing Forward.

Some correspondence took place in the Press about 1910 and from this the Croke Club took the initiation to once more put the game on a sound footing. There existed then a number of teams composed of Crokes, Kevins, Columcille, Drumcondra and St. Margarets. The few games played in the summer months kept the teams alive and at an inaugural meeting held at 25 Parnell Square in April, 1919, representatives of ten teams attended. Lady Fingal was elected president. At the meeting it was decided that a competitive league was not possible.

It was, however, decided that a representative wait on Gaelic League branches so that teams might be organised.

Writing at the time, the late Máire De Buitléir, the well-known Gaelic writer said:—

> **"The old classic ideal of a healthy mind in a healthy body should be aimed at in modern Ireland as it was aimed at and achieved by our ancestors."**

Perhaps in the stress of intellectual work entailed by the Gaelic revival we have been hitherto led to overlook the need for physical culture. *An Craoibhin* drew attention years ago to the close connection that should exist between the Gaelic League and Gaelic Athletic Association when he translated into Irish the fine marching song of the Gaels.

"As the majority of our women spent most of their time at sedentary work, out-of-door exercise combined with pleasant companionship is very desirable for them. I hope, therefore, that camoguidheacht clubs will be formed through the country and in the towns."

The organising movements proceeded slowly, but the game was kept before the public by a series of matches at several aeridheachta.

One such took place at Jones's Road (now Croke Park) on Sunday, July 7th, 1912, at which four thousand people were present.

This game was between selected teams from Dublin and Louth.

A Press report said: "Much interest was taken in the new Gaelic game for ladies." Later on in the same year teams were formed in various places and London as well as New York had at least half a dozen in each city. At a general meeting, favourable reports were received from several centres in Ireland including Cork, Kilkenny, Clare, Dublin, Limerick, Tipperary, Wexford, Leix, Louth, Meath, Antrim and Monaghan. There were eleven teams in Dublin and it was agreed to run a competitive league.

The Crokes Again.

About this time, April, 1911, the Croke Gaelic Club took the initial step to form a Dublin League competition. Delegates were called together from the teams then in existence and representatives from various clubs attended. The League was formed. The meeting took place at 25 Parnell Square on April 21st, 1911. Delegates attended from the following clubs:—Ard Craobh, Keatings, Crokes, Kevins, Columcille, St. Margarets, Inghindhe na hEireann, Drumcondra, Emmet Choir and Fianna.

Caith Ni Dhonnchadha, Mr. S. Sloan and other Gaels were also present. Mrs. Hamilton took the chair. The Countess of Fingal was unavoidably absent but sent a most encouraging letter. The proposition "that An Cumann Camoguidheachta be hereby established was put to the meeting" and carried unanimously. Lady Fingal was elected president, Mrs. O'Nowlan (Maire De Buitler) and Mrs. Hamilton were elected vice-presidents.

Rules were revised, and the officers along with one delegate from each club were to act as a governing body.

It was considered inadvisable owing to the few clubs in existence to form a competing league.

In May of the same year the rules were revised and printed. The following sub-committees were appointed to amend same:—Caith Ni Donncadha, Tomas Mac Aodha and Sean Ua Dubhthaigh.

Games were not permitted until the teams gained greater efficiency.

It was announced that University College Camoguidheacht team was formed, on 8th May, 1911. The opinion was expressed that the club would be the most thoroughgoing in the Association. The following teams were then in existence:—

Crokes, Kevins, Colmcille, Drumcondra, St. Margarets, Lord Edwards, Fianna, Lucan Sarsfields, Emmets, O'Tooles, Glenmalure, Fodhla.

It was agreed to play a game at the Castlebellingham Feis and Kevins Selected agreed to travel to play Dundalk Emers. It was also agreed to play a North v. South (Dublin) Selection at the Croke Aeridheacht. A League was formed on April 25, 1912, and the first games fixed were Kevins v. Fianna; Drumcondra v. Crokes; Fodhla v. St. Laurence O'Tooles.

The first annual Convention took place in the Oak Room, Mansion House, on Wednesday, April 17, 1912. There was a good attendance, including representatives from Louth, Wexford, Cork, Kerry, Roscommon and London. Several letters were read warmly commending the work of the Association, one of which, from the pen of Dr. Douglas Hyde, LL.D., read:—

> **"Of the many items that go to build up nationality and character, there are three which stand out pre-eminently—language, music and games. A person may be proficient in the national language and music, however, without any advantages to his bodily health and physique. But not so with the national games. I hail with delight and enthusiasm the attempt you are making so successfully and so bravely to introduce Camoguidheacht amongst our girls. I hope you will not stop till every convent school has its club. Such a game, besides so good in itself, is of more value to Irish girls than any foreign game can be, because it appeals to what is instinctive and hereditary in Irish blood.**
>
> **"I read a most remarkable article a couple of years ago upon the improvement in physique and, indeed, all round, of the Swedish girls since they took up ski-ing as a national pastime. I hope you may effect something of the same good by popularising Camoguidheacht."**

It was reported that the Association was growing strong and it was proposed to widen the scope of the work now being done by the governing body.

By

Tir na n-Og

The League competitions did not induce many new teams to come forward, and if anything there was a falling-off of the number previously affiliated. Yet the competition carried on through the year 1914-15.

In September, 1915, the number of teams in Dublin amounted to eight, and there would appear to have been no activities till June, 1917, when the following teams existed:—Cleaver, Faughs, O'Tooles, Kevins, Fianna, Gaelic League, Crokes.

The League was again put in motion. The years 1918 and 1919 brought twelve teams into the League, and the competition was won by Gaelic League, with Faughs as runners-up. The following years, and up to 1921, saw a certain amount of success attending the efforts of the delegates.

It was in the month of February, 1922, that more grounds were needed and a request for same sent to the Board of Works met with a negative reply.

What would appear to have been the first game played at the new grounds, Phoenix Park, was that between Clan na Gael and Colmcille on Sunday, 18th June, 1922.

It will, of course, be remembered that from 1914 on to 1922 the disturbed state of our country, and to some lesser extent, the world war, had an adverse effect on the success of any organised effort to expand the game.

These events did not, however, prevent the holding of regular weekly meetings, which in themselves had the effect of keeping the game before the public.

From 1923 to 1926 the game became much more popular and eight teams affiliated from London.

Seven came from Meath, and eight from Wicklow, as well as individual teams in many parts of the country. Many of the more prominent Colleges also took up the game and Dominican College (Eccles Street), as well as the sister-college at Sion Hill, were prominent in the College League. The Dublin Leagues had ten senior league teams and eight junior teams; a similar number entering for the Colleges League and Championship.

There was a marked difference in the style of play at this period, and, indeed, it had improved wonderfully from that of a few years ago.

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18th CENTURY GAELIC POET SINGING OF FOOTBALL MATCH at SLANE

The Game is Very Old In Royal Meath

(By "OSSIAN.")

MEATH'S connection with the games of the Gael is as old as Meath itself, and has persisted through the centuries in a splendid state of continuity. Though both hurling and football, like athletic contests, have been always present in Meath County, there is no denying the fact that football has for long been the game of predominent attraction. I have records of inter-county hurling contests between Meath and Kildare, Meath and Dublin, Meath and Westmeath. The latest of these old-time contests took place seventy-three years ago; but football was the more popular game there, and Lord Edward Fitzgerald was present at a great football match played in the summer of 1797 between Meath and Kildare. Curiously enough, the Kildare colours of the present time were the Kildare colours of that time, for we learn: "Kildare's tall, strong twenty men wore white linen shirts." Meath won the match, but it was like a game of yesterday compared with the antiquity of Gaelic football in Meath County. The match just referred to was held at a period when the British Government in Ireland did not like to see Irishmen assembling in numbers for diversion or for any purpose.

G.A.A. Ruffles "The Castle."

In the same year, 1797, a football match in Kildare gave rise to an incident that perturbed the political atmosphere of the College Green Parliament. This incident, which shows how well the secret service money scattered by Dublin Castle was doing its work, had its rise through the fact of a gentleman named Wogan Browne on a Sunday evening riding by a field that was filled with people in anticipation of a challenge football match about to be played there. This Mr. Wogan Browne was a magistrate for the Counties of Kildare and Dublin, and was very popular with all classes of the people, and had a genuine interest in native forms of sports and pastimes. When the game was about to commence some of the men responsible for the match requested him to start the game, and he promptly complied, dismounted from his horse, and threw in the ball between the competing teams, and the match proceeded. But some of the spies present reported the incident; which the British authorities regarded as a public sanctioning by a magistrate of public gatherings of which the Government did not approve. "Black Jack Fitzgibbon," who was then for his pro-British work

made Lord Chancellor Clare, removed the name of Wogan Browne from the list of magistrates for this offence, as well as that of being an uncompromising opponent of the Pitt-Castlereagh plot for the destruction of the Irish Parliament.

The savage repression of the Irish people after the failure of the insurrection of 1798 gave Irish games and gatherings a big set-back, but this was only one of the interruptions in the continuity of our traditional heritage in sport.

Passing on a Heritage.

There are many old football songs as well as songs of hurling in the old songs of the people both in English and in the native language, but most of these old songs of ancient games in North Leinster and Ulster are of football contests, and Meath County has a goodly share of them to its credit.

The great football match played at Slane in these far-off days found worthy record in the works of the old Irish poet, Mac Cuarta, a native of County Louth, who lived and composed poetry at the time.

Another ancient football song deals with "The football match of the Boron Meadow," which recounts the prowess of the men of Omeath, Co. Louth, on the football field. There were games of football played in Meath County up to sixty or seventy years ago under the old traditional rules of the game, and the ten understood football was not new to the county when the Gaelic Athletic Association was established. Duleek gave all Meath a lead for the newly-founded athletic association in 1885, when athletic sports were successfully brought off amid scenes of great enthusiasm. Kells affiliated a football team shortly after, so Meath was starting in the march for the reestablishment of national games. Dowdstown quickly got into line and had a very formidable football team. Dowdstown was the first team to bring Meath into inter-county championships under the Gaelic Athletic Association.

The day on which Meath met Limerick at Elm Park, Merrion, was one of the big days of the early years of the Association in Dublin.

Sunday, July 24th, had been looked forward to for weeks previous, and the four counties directly interested in the two All-Ireland football championship semi-finals mustered a goodly number of followings on the occasion. Waterford and Limerick teams travelled up on Saturday evening and were accorded a great reception at Kingsbridge Station, and through the city. Leinster's representatives, Meath and Louth, had an equally fine reception on Sunday morning. In the first tie Louth defeated Waterford after a well-contested game, and in the second semi-final Meath put up a great fight against Limerick's splendid combination of twenty-one expert exponents of football. Dowdstown was cheered to the echo during their plucky fight by Leinster's following. At half-time Limerick led on a score of 1 goal 2 points to 2 points. The second half was brimful of thrilling play, with Limerick's famous "Commercials" kept exceptionally busy against an opposition that tested them all the way to the finish, but there was only one more score during the game—a goal for Limerick. Dowdstown got great and well-deserved praise on that day for the fine display put up against the best team in Ireland, that won the All-Ireland Championship shortly after.

In the All-Ireland Football Championship for the following year Meath was drawn against Louth, with Drogheda as the venue.

It was Dowdstown again representing Meath, and this time again they were confronted by a great team, Dundalk "Young Irelands" representing Louth County.

The Meath representatives played a fine game, but were defeated on a score of 2 goals 4 points to nil.

At that time the Rev. Father Woods, C.C., Navan, was Chairman of the Meath Co. Board, with J. Doran Hon. Treasurer and C. Smith (Kells) Hon. Secretary. Meath was well organised. The trouble at the General Annual Convention at Thurles in 1887 had some repercussions among the Gaels of Meath County as elsewhere at the time, and the "Fenian section," as the Nationalists were called, had plenty of genuine supporters among the rank and file of Meath Gaeldom, though, as in other counties, the constitutional party ruled affairs at the County Board. J. F. Byrne represented the county on the Central Council.

London "Times" Interested.

In 1889 a letter over the signature of a Mr. Murphy, Dunsany, Co. Meath, directed much attention to Gaeldom in that county. This letter appeared in the London *Times* newspaper, then very bitterly opposed to Ireland, and had been continually attacking Parnell and his National League movement in the country. This letter stated that the Catholic Bishops were opposed to the G.A.A., and implied that the Bishops had condemned the organisation. Although with the support of Archbishop Croke, its chief patron, and Michael Davitt, and the clergy of the county, the "Constitutional" party had completely gripped and controlled the Association from the General Convention that "reconstructed" it in January, 1888, still the Gaels were "suspect" in the eyes of Dublin Castle, and the Irish "loyalists," which term was a paradox to ordinary intelligence, as the term meant people of pro-British tendencies who were disloyal to Ireland. This letter appeared about the time of the publication of the much-circulated booklet purporting to be a review of "Irish Revolutionary Movements" from 1848 to 1887, by Brougham Leech, LL.D., who filled the unimportant chair at Trinity College, Dublin, as Professor of Jurisprudence and International Law. This highly aggressive publication had much to say of the G.A.A. as a revolutionary body, and created widespread talk on the subject. Archbishop Walsh was interviewed on the letter which had appeared in *The Times*, and the interview was published in *The Freeman's Journal*, and further publicity was given to groundless fears and charges and to Professor Brougham Leech's indictment of the Association. In the course of the interview arising out of the "Meath Letter," Archbishop Walsh said:

"I am fully aware that efforts have been made in some parts of Ireland to engraph on the Gaelic Association a secret society of a political character,"

and the words were used as a justification for all the subsequent "loyalist" attacks and all the attention devoted to the Gaels and their meetings and matches by increased squads of detectives, and, of course, Meath County was kept under close observation, and all really with the object of creating "good copy" for anti-Home Rule propaganda in Britain.

Maurice Davin, first President of the G.A.A.

When the Meath G.A.A. County Convention for 1889 met at Navan, a resolution was passed condemning the attempt made "to blacken the character of the Gaels of Meath by trying to connect them with secret societies." The then officials of the County Board were:—President, M. Sheridan; Hon. Treasurer, J. Doran; Hon. Secretary, B. Rogers. At the meeting of the Central Council of the Association held in August of that year, the President, Mr. Peter J. Kelly, spoke very strongly on the matter of the persistent felon-setting.

The worst blow the Association got, however, did not come from the British Government or its Irish "loyalists' 'and spies, but from the fraricidal "Parnell split" of 1890, and Meath felt its force to the full in the fierce campaigns in the General Election of 1892.

In North Meath Michael Davitt was the anti-Parnell candidate, and in South Meath a man named Fullham. In both cases the Parnellite candidates were defeated at the polls, but in both cases their opponents were unseated on petitions. The civil strife of these contests split up the county, and the costs of the election petitions put Davitt in the bankruptcy court, and a claim for the money he advanced for the financing of the "G.A.A. invasion of America" was lodged against the Association.

Slow Recovery and Success.

Meath took some years to recover from this terrible civil strife, and like other counties similarly affected, G.A.A. concerns were very much neglected. The year 1894 saw some evident signs of recovery, and at a conference held in Navan a provisional committee was apppointed for the reorganising of the county, with Mr. J. Murray, Kells, and Mr. J. Murray, Navan, acting as Secretaries. At the Annual General Convention of the Association held at Thurles in April, 1895, Meath County was represented, and Mr. K. T. Blake, of Ladyrath, Navan, who had done much to reorganise the county, was elected Secretary of the Central Council. After some time Mr. Blake had some differences with the Council, and ceased to fill the position. The Meath County officials elected that year were:—P. Bailey, President; P. Coldwick, Treasurer, and B. Clark, Secretary. It was hard struggling by some spirited Meath Gaels that kept the flag of the Association afloat during these days of adversity, but the workers were rewarded with the dawn of brighter days when, in 1894, the famous Navan "Mahoneys," a team called after the Parnellite candidate who unseated Davitt, came to the fore as county football champions, and they retained that title for the two following years.

Beyond all question the Navan Mahoneys was a splendid team of first-class players. In going towards the All-Ireland final this team disposed of Cavan, Kilkenny and Dublin.

The All-Ireland Football Final was not played until March, 1886, at the old Dublin venue at Jones's Road City and Suburban grounds (now Croke Park). Tipperary's famous Arovale Rovers were their opponents, and one of the finest football matches ever played was witnessed by a big gathering of spectators. There was intense excitement around the arena aroused by the thrilling display,

(*Continued on page* 79).

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(*Continued from page* 78).

while the match right through was contested in a thoroughly sporting spirit. At full time the victory was for Tipperary by the narrow margin of the single point, the total scores being 4 points to 3.

The team that brought Meath County into the first All-Ireland Final and narrowly failed to win were:—

M. Murray (Captain); J. Sharkey, P. Daly, H. Pendleton, J. FitzPatrick, J. Quinn, M. Elliott, J. Hegarty, P. Clarke, P. Fox, A. Shaw, C. Curtis, V. McDermott, G. W. Toombe, M. Rogers, B. McCabe, J. Russell.

Next day some consternation was caused in G.A.A. circles when a letter from the referee, Mr. J. J. Kenny (Dublin), appeared in the daily newspapers to the effect that one of the Tipperary scores was got in contravention of the rules of the game, and that the match should be replayed.

The Central Council, at its ensuing meeting, ruled out the referee's complaint, but awarded a set of silver medals to the Meath team, who were winners of the Leinster Championship. The then President of the Meath County Board, on behalf of the Meath team, refused to take advantage of the referee's mistake by claiming a replay. Naturally, this sequel to a great game so closely contested robbed the victorious Tipperary men of a lot of the credit. There were three subsequent matches played by the teams, two of which ended in drawn games, but in the third Tipperary proved victorious.

A Further Advance.

A forward move was made by the progressive men in Meath Gaeldom in 1902, and the championships were re-started in the county. The Hibernian Hurling team belonging to Navan won that year's County Hurling Championship, and Castletown won the County Football Championship. The Navan Young Irelands won the County Hurling Championship the following year, and held it for the ensuing three years. Kilmessan won the Football Championship in 1903. In 1904 P. Cody, Kilmessan, was President of the County Board, with T. Timmon Hon. Treasurer and T. MacNamee Hon. Secretary. 1904 saw a general development of interest in G.A.A. affairs all over the country, and Meath was not behind in making the most of its opportunities. Castletown regained county football honours and retained them during the next two years. The new Irish-Ireland revival spirit was also exerting its influence in many parts of the county, as befitted the native place of the patriotic Father Eugene O'Growney. Ever since Meath has kept itself very foremost in its part for the progressive course of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Dunshaughlin won the first Junior Hurling Championship of the county in 1908. Navan "Gaels" won the first Meath County Football Junior Championship in 1905, and also held it for the following year. When the new series of Junior Championships were started in 1927,

Athboy, Father O'Growney's birthplace, won the honour, and it is not entirely foreign to my subject matter to mention that the same old heartsome and homely spot produced the first Sinn Fein paper ever produced in Ireland, and from which the movement, and the weekly newspaper subsequently published by the late Arthur Griffith, took their names.

The spirit that has carried Meath's Gaels through so many difficulties in the past is the same spirit, but stronger at present than ever. The Gaelic Athletic Association, now celebrating its Golden Jubilee year, has received loyal support from Meath, and has done well for the manhood of Meath in keeping them in touch with the traditional ways and means of physical fitness and the aims and aspirations of Irish Nationality.

HOW THE WESTMEATH MEN HONOURED CUSACK

Men From the South Remembered Here

LITTLE more than six months after the birth of the G.A.A., the first record of its existence in Westmeath is found in the formation of a branch in Killucan in the early summer of 1885.

During the years which followed, other teams sprang into being throughout the county: Athlone T. P. O'Connors, Mullingar Shamrocks, Moate Shamrocks and William O'Briens, Kilbeggan Volunteers, Delvin Emmets, Derrymore St. Patricks, Thomastown Rangers, The Downs Pigeons, Kinnegad Slashers, Rochfortbridge Warriors, Raharney Rovers, Mullingar Commercials, Wooddown Rackers and Riverstown Emmets.

Mullingar Commercials was founded by Mr. J. J. King, who is now a member of the Cusack Memorial Park Committee and Chief Clerk of the Mental Hospital in Mullingar.

These teams existed without any unified control until 1891, when the County Committee was formed with Mr. Martin MacGreevy of Mullingar as Chairman.

ESPIONAGE!

An incident which occurred in the following year showed that the British Government were alive to the dangers of the new Association, and that they were beginning to understand the real reason for the banding together of the young men of Ireland under the guise of athletic development. It was noticeable that most of the pioneers of the G.A.A. were those who believed that only by having a trained and disciplined Irish manhood could separation from England be achieved, and the G.A.A. presented an opportunity for the building up of the physical force movement which had suffered a severe setback by defections to constitutionalism.

Police and detectives were instructed to watch the movements of the more active leaders of the Association, and to accompany teams travelling to other centres. On this occasion, when the Athlone team was returning from Dublin, where they had defeated the Isles of the Sea at Clonturk Park,

annoyed by the attentions of a more-than-usually officious detective, the members of the team threw him off the train—at a station!

WEXFORDMAN ACTIVE

In spite of the good foundation laid down, it was necessary to organise the county again in 1900. The moving spirits this time were a Wexfordman named Patrick Murphy and William Hughes from Kinnegad.

But it was not until 1903 that Athlone again became connected with the Association. A dispute which occurred ten years previously over a referee's decision in the county final between Athlone and Mullingar created such bad feeling that the G.A.A. in Athlone was completely broken up. The referee had awarded the decision to Athlone but the Mullingar captain, Mr. J. Mulvey, who was also the County Secretary, refused to hand over the medals on the ground that Athlone had been credited with a score to which it was not entitled. And although forty years have elapsed, the old Athlone Gaels, whenever they discuss the matter, still condemn Mullingar for the way they treated them.

Moate "All-Whites" have held the championships for practically the last ten years.

Riverstown Emmets, one of the pioneer clubs of the county, disposed of all their opponents and held the County Championship practically from 1904 to 1915, when they were obliged to hand it over to Rochfordbridge Warriors. In 1905, Athlone Volunteers captured it for one year, while from 1901 to 1903 the Young Irelands (Mullingar) were County Champions.

But the Emmets did not win their laurels easily on all occasions. The Downs forced them to a draw twice in 1910.

In spite of their long run of success, Riverstown faded completely out of the picture and the County Championship went six times each to Rochfordbridge and Kilbeggan, once each to Athlone, The Downs and Kinnegad, and once also to Moate, the present champions.

On the reorganisation in 1900, Mr. Philip Mullally of Mullingar became chairman, and was succeeded in 1910 by Mr. B. J. Carroll. Mr. J. J. Feehan held office from 1912 to 1920, Mr. J. J. Carey from 1921 to 1924, Mr. C. Duffy was appointed in 1925, and Mr. L. Leech in 1926. In 1927, Peadar Cowan was elected chairman, and in 1932 he was succeeded by Mr. Seán Garland, N.T., but in 1933 Capt. Cowan again became chairman with Rev. P. Dunne, president; Mr. Seán Garland, vice-chairman; Mr. Dan Leavy, secretary; and Mr. Ben Hickey, N.T., treasurer.

Since Hurling was first organised in Westmeath, in 1904, it has been very popular in several areas. Some of the first teams were Mullingar Shamrocks, Athlone St. Ciarans, Coosan Fenians, Drumraney Leo Caseys, Raharney Rovers, Riverstown Emmets, Crookedwood, Castlepollard, Clonkill, Simonstown, Ringtown Myles O'Reillys and Lismacaffrey.

St. Ciarans leads with six County Championships; Myles O'Reillys, five; Clonkill, four; Raharney Rovers, three; Shamrocks, Drumraney and Castlepollard, two each; while one each went to Mental Hospital, Riverstown and Castletowngeoghegan.

A GREAT CLAREMAN

One of the most active Gaels in Athlone was a Clareman, Mr. Patrick Markham (a brother of Mr. Tom Markham of the Dublin County Board), who was resident in the town since 1906. His death last year was a great loss to the G.A.A. in Westmeath.

Although Westmeath has not been fortunate enough to have had many victories to its credit, it has not been completely unheard of. On the formation of the Junior Grade in 1905, Westmeath won the first Leinster Junior Football Championship. In 1912, the County Hurling team was only beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship. Again, in 1915 and in 1929, Westmeath won the Leinster Junior Football Championship, and in the latter year won its first All-Ireland Championship by defeating Roscommon and Limerick in the semi-finals and London in the final.

In 1932, the County Committee opened a chapter in the history of the G.A.A. by purchasing the site of the Cusack Memorial Park in Mullingar.

On July 16, 1933, the new Park was completed and was formally opened by Most Rev. Dr. Mulvany, Bishop of Meath.

That much untiring energy has been devoted to their work by the officials of the County Committee is shown by the fact that, although they were in debt to the amount of £265 in 1931, this has been paid off, in addition to the opening of the Cusack Memorial Park, and a profit of £709 made in 1933.

WITH THE IRISH TEAMS IN ENGLAND

I was Tired of London till I Swung a Caman with the Irish Exiles.

By

Padraig

I HAD been two months in London. The offices of the Big Syndicate that employed me were on the sixth floor of a dingy building. The traffic roared all day in the streets below. The windows looked out on a forest of roofs—some high, some low; all of them ugly, irregular, repulsive. No green fields and bright-leaved trees there to relieve the wearied eyes. The day was sunny and sultry, and a blue haze hung over the giant, palpitating city. The electric fans that aided ventilation droned and whirred.

I was tired of London, tired of the job, tired of my suburban landlady and lodgings.

My nerves were on edge from the continuous noise, and the dank odour of the Underground trains on which I travelled to and from my work was perpetually in my nostrils. I longed to be back in Ireland where the air was cool and clean, the grass green, and the blue mountains rose up from the verdant plains till they seemed to reach the sky.

I wanted to leave and go home that night—to pack my bag and take the boat train from Paddington. But I had signed a contract that would have to be observed. Otherwise there were penalties. Besides, work was scarce at home. Unemployment had driven me abroad. I was in London for good or ill, and there I would have to stay for a long, long time. Since my arrival I had made no friends—met none of my compatriots. London was full of Irish people, and there were Irish societies. I would go out and find them. They were social rallying-centres. They would at least help me to pass my lonely evenings and week-ends. They would help me to find the G.A.A. clubs, too, as I had heard there were a few in existence.

I longed to swing a camán, and to hear again a football sing as I drove it from my insteps.

These thoughts tumbled over each other like water over a cascade. My reverie carried me away from the dingy roofs of London to home-scenes and associations I loved so well. Then it carried me back again, and I realised that I was gazing vacantly through the window, with my chin resting on my hands, and that the grimy dome of St. Paul's Cathedral loomed large in the distance. That changed my train of thought and I had just embarked on another reverie in which Macaulay's New Zealander, the broken arch of London Bridge, and the ruins of St. Paul's figured, and I was in the middle of a speculation as to what kind of international cataclysm would lead to the destruction of London when a colleague—George, a Londoner—who worked beside me interrupted it by asking me whether I played tennis. I replied that I did not, and dipping my pen in the ink began to work again.

"What gimes do you ply?" asked George.

"Gaelic football, hurling, and handball," I replied.

"That's when you are at home in Ireland," he said. "There ain't no gimes like that pl'yed over 'ere.

"Yet's you mention it, I saw a crowd of Paddies plying a gime as looked like wild 'ockey the other Sattiday aft'noon as I came over Wimbledon Common."

(*Continued on page 83.*)

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The Teaching Priests of a famous college produce hurling and football champions in a garrison town

BY
S. O. M.

Longford—Provincial Champion Minors, 1929.

LONGFORD has long been connected with the G.A.A., which found supporters in its earliest years in the territory of the O'Farrell.

There is general agreement that one of the first, if not the first, championships played in Longford took place on June 1st, 1890. Considering that the Association was then only six years old,

Longford can claim to have been connected with Ireland's greatest Amateur Athletic Association almost since its inception.

There is proof, too, that even at that early stage the Association was pretty widespread, for, in 1890, Columcille and Rathcline were represented in the championship competitions, and those are widely separated areas, the former bordering Lough Gowna in the north, and Rathcline adjoins Lough Ree on the Shannon.

A Garrison County.

Despite this early acceptance of the Gaelic idea, Longford did not figure very prominently in the annals of Gaeldom in its earliest years. Being small and sparsely populated, this is not to be wondered at, particularly when it is recalled that the "garrison influence" predominated largely in the towns.

The early years of the present century saw the county making efforts to mount the Gaelic ladder, and in 1924 it placed its name, for the first time, in a prominent position

by winning the Leinster Junior Football Championship, and going into the All-Ireland Final of that grade against Kerry, who defeated the Midlanders.

Football has been for long predominant, but Hurling existed for some years at the beginning of this century. It, however, became extinct, for after 1913 there are no records until 1932, when the game was revived. It is, perhaps, more than a coincidence that Granard Shamrocks won the 1913 Championship, and Granard annexed the 1932 title, the first of the new Hurling championships.

Revivalists.

The Hurling revival appears to be destined to succeed, for despite the tragic death of one of the pioneers of the revival (Justin Manning, of Woodford, Galway) on the occasion of the first Hurling match, the revivalists carried to a successful conclusion the championship of that year (1932) and again completed the 1933 championship.

This achievement is noteworthy in view of the apathy existing in the greater part of the county towards this oldest of our Gaelic games.

As further evidence of the progress of Hurling we might mention the inauguration of Camogie recently. The cailini are taking to caman wielding enthusiastically.

The standard of football in the county is remarkably high, and the Senior championship ties have produced some really brilliant games in recent years. Despite this, however, the county has repeatedly failed badly in inter-county competitions.

The absence of Minor competitions was to some extent responsible for these failures, for there were little reserves to rely on when the veterans "handed in their guns."

The inauguration of Minor championships this year should, it is hoped, remedy this defect, and enable Longford to take its proper place in the Gaelic map as the heart of Ireland.

Longford's Youth.

The absence of Minor competitions in the county has not, however, prevented Longford from figuring in the provincial championships of these grades. Longford has taken part in the Minor Football championship since its initiation in Leinster, and it has the honour of being the first county to appear as Provincial Champions (1929). A year later the county ran up the same championship, being beaten by Dublin, that year's All-Ireland champions. Longford failed to annex the 1929 All-Ireland title, being beaten by Clare after a great game. The county fielded a Minor Hurling team last year for the first time, and though beaten by Offaly in the first round, rendered a good account of themselves.

Victorious St. Mel's.

No account of the G.A.A. in Longford, however brief, would be complete without reference to the achievements of St. Mel's College in the Leinster College championships. Already St. Mel's has won the Leinster title twice, and have beaten Knockbeg in the 1894 title.

The College has always supplied the bulk of the county's Minor footballers.

Their record in this and in the College championships should be evidence enough that, so far as its College authorities are concerned, the future of Gaelic games is safe in Longford.

It can, of course, be said with equal truth, that the future of the Association in the county as a whole is safe, for we do not measure progress by achievements on the field, but rather by the interest that players and spectators take in matters pertaining to Irish-Ireland,

and in the field of Irish-Irelandism Longford can hold its own with the foremost counties.

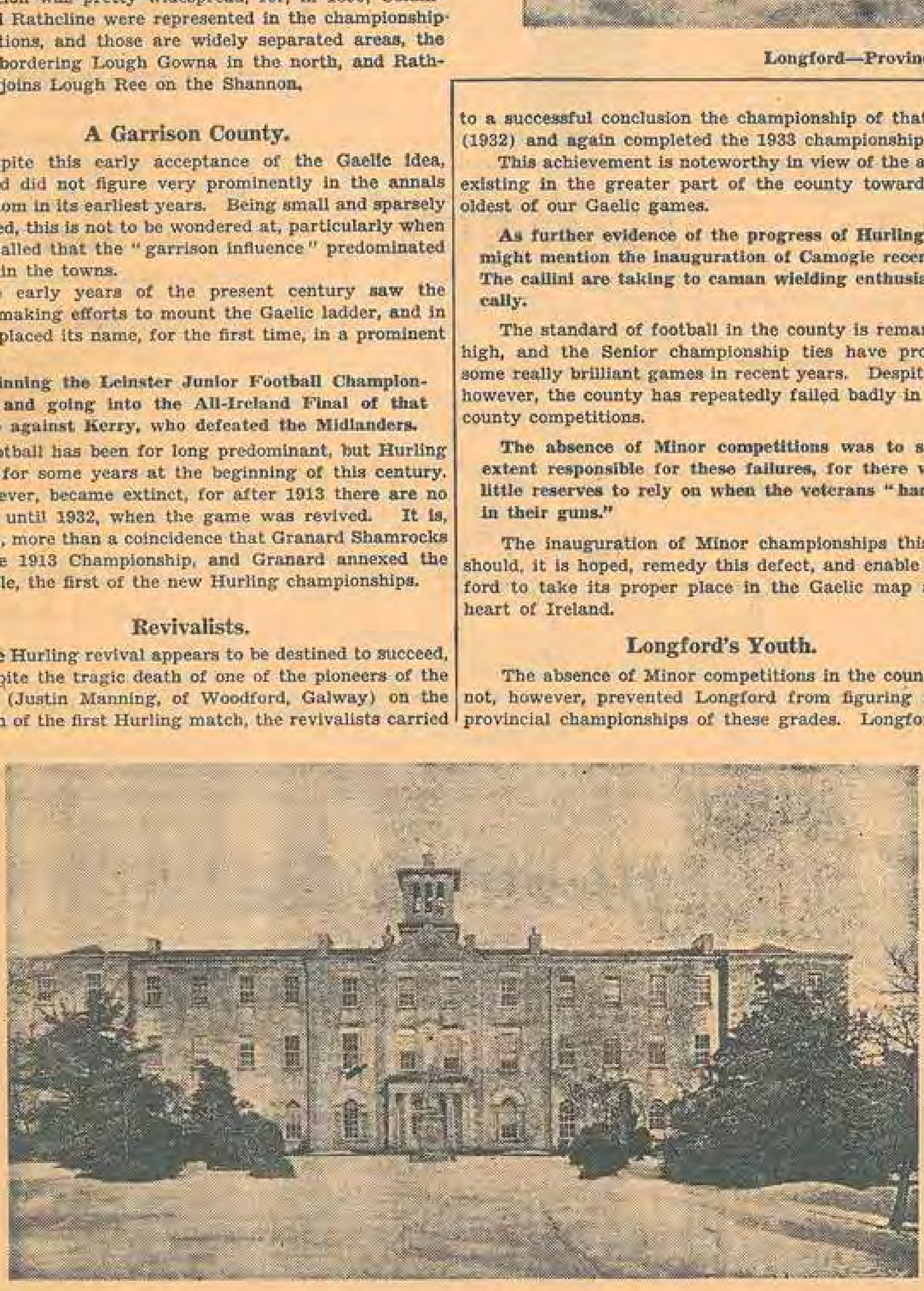
A Place to Play.

In the schools, the predominant pastime is well catered for, and an energetic committee has charge of this sphere of activity. Lack of proper playing grounds is here, as elsewhere, a big handicap, and we cannot hope for progress to any marked extent until the powers that be realise that the provision of properly equipped playing grounds for schools should be a major plank in any national policy. The future citizens cannot be a healthy developed race if they are given no proper opportunities for such development in their early years.

New County Ground.

The Longford County Board have recently acquired in Longford Town a splendid site for a county Gaelic grounds.

This, it is hoped, will be able, when completed, to compare favourably with the best of any other county. It is a sign of the times that, where formerly the only impressive sights were the lines of an oppressor's armed forces, is now the scene of lusty Gaelic cheers, for the new county grounds formed part of a former British military barracks, and the Union Jack has given place to the flag of Eire of the Gaels.



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WITH THE IRISH TEAMS IN ENGLAND

(*Continued from page* 80.)

"Wild 'ockey"—that was what this little Londoner, who knew only London, and badly at that, thought our great national game was. George was a good-natured fellow to whom I had taken to liking, a Chelsea "fan," and apparently a good sportsman. Passing over his allusion to "wild 'ockey" I said, "I must go there on Saturday afternoon to find those Paddies, as you call them."

"I 'ad 'oped you would come with me to my club for a gime of tennis on Sattiday," replied George. "Can't you manage to come?"

"No, thanks, George," I replied. "I have never played tennis in my life. Thanks very much for your invitation, all the same."

I followed that cue, and Saturday afternoon found me on Wimbledon Common. There, sure enough, were about a dozen Irishmen pucking a hurling ball about. Approaching one of them I asked for a loan of his camán which was gracefully given. I enjoyed that afternoon, made some friends, and joined one of the several London G.A.A. clubs then in existence before I went home. I discovered the location of all the clubs, where they played their matches and next day I made my way to the London Co. Board's grounds, where I met several old friends.

Lee Bridge Fields, Stratford, Highgate, Eltham, Catford—what memories they bring back to our London exiles. They were the scenes of many hard games and pleasant hours.

> **Then there were Saturday afternoon practices at Wimbledon Common, on Wormwood Scrubbs—outside the walls of the famous prison that held so many of our gallant lads during the pre-Treaty struggle.**

From April to October two matches—one hurling and one football—were played every Sunday in League or Championship competitions. If one's own team was not engaged it was all the same—we turned up at all matches, for linesmen, umpires, and referees are always needed.

Suitable central grounds were hard to obtain, and some teams had to make long and costly journeys to fulfil their engagements. The pitches were not always good, they were hard in fine weather, and heavy and sticky in bad weather.

> **Finding rents was not easy, and spectators and players alike paid admission fees to ensure that our obligations would be met and the games continued.**

The difficulty of keeping teams together was great, but was overcome. When a club's members are scattered all over a big city, it is not quite so easy to collect them as to mobilise a parish team.

The social side of the Association's activities abroad cannot be overestimated. Ceilidhes, dances, smoking concerts and suchlike functions keep things going during the winter months, and are, besides, a regular feature on Saturday and Sunday evenings during the summer. The members of the different clubs attend each others' functions wherever possible.

Such is the round of life of the Gaelic athlete in London. It is much the same in America and elsewhere. Life to many of us would not be worth living if we had not those pastimes and amusements to look forward to from week to week. Besides, they are proof that we cannot be absorbed into the bodies politic and social of another race; that we have national characteristics of our own that are unblendable. In proof of this an English friend recently remarked to me

> **that while the Scots and Welsh seem easily to accept and conform to English standards and conventions, the Irish remain unaltered and unalterable.**

They Used to Play Six Games A Day in Wicklow!

By C. M. Byrne

WICKLOW was one of the first counties to organise within the ranks of the G.A.A. Sports under the auspices of the new organisation were held in Ashford and Barndarrig in the Summer of 1885, and in the Autumn of the same year the first Gaelic match in the County was played in Ashford between Ashford and Dalkey Clubs. The late Mr. Jack Byrne of Ashford had been mainly instrumental in introducing the G.A.A. into the County. At that time he was a medical student in Dublin, and was a friend of Cusack, who was present at the match and gave an exhibition of weight-throwing. Mr. Byrne captained the locals; the late Mr. J. J. O'Reilly, who afterwards became a resident of the County, and a prominent public man, captained Dalkey; Mr. P. P. Sutton, of "Sport," refereed and Mr. John Wyse Power, first Secretary, G.A.A., was an interested spectator. The result was, I believe, a draw. Some of the first players with Ashford, still happily with us, include Mr. Ben Kelly, till recently identified with many of our public boards; Mr. P. J. Byrne, now residing in Aughrim; Mr. Dick Fitzpatrick, and Mr. J. Collins, Ashford.

Four Wins on One Day.

This match set the Gaelic ball rolling very aptly, for immediately clubs were organised in Bray, Togher (Roundwood), Barndarrig, Wicklow, where the then association football club became absorbed, and Rathnew, which was to become the most famous of the county's G.A.A. strongholds. Those six teams met six County Wexford teams at Avondale on the 1st of November, 1886. There were thousands present from Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford; as were also Mrs. Parnell (mother of the Irish Leader), and Miss Fanny Parnell, the poetess.

Mrs. Parnell addressed the crowd after the matches, and on a voice calling for three cheers for her son, the uncrowned King of Ireland, Mrs. Parnell said she did not believe in Monarchs. "She was a *Republican*."

Parnell himself, a patron of the G.A.A., was many times present afterwards at matches in Avondale. All six matches were played off this November day—an example of expedition that could be recommended to the modern organisers. Wexford won four games, one was a draw; and Togher, captained by Mr. Larry Murphy—still cheerily with us—won the only victory for the home county.

Rapid strides in organisation produced teams in Kilmacanogue, Kilcoole, Newtown, Glenealy, Avondale, Clara, Conary. Annacurra, which had never lost its quickly established fame, set a worthy example to Aughrim, Ballinacor (Feach MacHugh's); Ballykillageer, Monaglough, Park, Aughavanagh, Johnstown, Tigroney, Redcross, Laragh, etc.

In the west, organisation proceeded rapidly all through 1886, and by the end of that year every town and village, had its club, from Blessington to Carnew.

A Great Day for Wicklow.

The first County Convention took place in the town of Wicklow on St. Stephen's Day, 1886; Mr. Andrew Hyland, Barndarrig, who is now resident in Dublin, was elected chairman; Mr. Pat. McDonnell, deceased, a well-known journalist, who afterwards became town clerk of Bray, was appointed secretary; the late Mr. Laurence Cullen, Rathmore, was elected treasurer, and Mr. Patrick Byrne, deceased, Coolawinna, Rathnew, was honoured by being elected first representative from the county to the Central Council. Mr. Hyland is the only one of those surviving, but one who took a prominent part in the Association and at that first convention, and later in national affairs—especially the Parnellite and Sinn Féin movements—was Mr. Morgan Travers, who lives to celebrate the Golden Jubilee. It is a remarkable tribute to Mr. Matt Byrne of Baltinglass, that he attended this convention in his teens, and to-day is still a member of the County Board, which he serves as County Registrar.

Wicklow was drawn against Clare in the All-Ireland Championships '87, to be played on a Tuesday at Athlone, but they refused to travel such a journey.

In the Spring of '87 they played at Wexford—the return matches against that county—this was Wicklow's day as they won the majority of the six games.

Parnell attended their matches; one day they cheered him as the "Uncrowned King" of Ireland, but his mother told them *She* was Republican.

In the early days, Ashford was the leading team of the county, and it speaks well for the tenacity of the Gaels that to-day Ashford parish possesses four affiliated clubs, amongst whom "Dr. Jack" and his comrades are not forgotten. Another famous team at this period was Brittas, which included two great athletes, the brothers McDaniel.

In 1888-1889 Clara beat Ashford under the captaincy of "Tiger" Toole. Another great contest of this period was Ashford v. Rathnew, the former winning by a point. The late Mr. James Byrne, Tinnakilly, refereed, and the greatest imaginable excitement prevailed. Clara met Annacurra in the championship, 2nd round, at Clonskeagh. Mr. James Kavanagh, who has been for many years, and happily still is, a member of Wicklow County Council, led Annacurra to victory. Another great player with Clara was Mr. James Byrne, Ballinderry, afterwards to become vice-chairman of the Rathdrum Guardians and District Council. Another great game ensued between Annacurra and Bray at Glenealy this same year, the former winning.

Charles Stewart Parnell.

In the west the district final lay between Baltinglass (Captain Matt Byrne) and Ballyknockan (whose outstanding player was Mr. Joseph Brady, the present popular quarry owner at Ballyknockan). This game was without result; the replay at Athgreaney attracted over 3,000 people, when Ballyknockan won. Annacurra beat Ballyknockan in the final.

In the Inter-County Championships of 1889, Annacurra, representing Wicklow under Captain John Doyle, met the famous "Blue and Whites" representing Wexford, the first match was played at Wexford; then Wicklow and Wexford met again at Clonskeagh, a draw resulted, and on extra time being played, Wexford won by a score. Those matches are still talked of around the firesides of South Wicklow.

With Wicklow Town, who won the County Championship of 1890, there played very prominently such doughty footballers as the late Mr. Joseph H. McCarroll, county solicitor; T. Doran, Messrs. Rd. White, and Rd. Woodroffe, the last two being still to the good with us. On the County Board at this period were Mr. McDonnell, as chairman; the late Rev. Father Clarke, C.C., Wicklow (treasurer), who was imprisoned under the Balfour regime; the late Mr. S. J. Doyle, journalist, afterwards secretary to the County Council, etc.

The advent of the Parnellite split disorganised County Wicklow very severely, but by 1895 the County was re-organised and at this period Rathnew jumped into prominence under Captain Jim Doyle, who was afterwards so tragically killed at Bray, and to whose memory the Gaels of Wicklow-Dublin erected a beautiful Celtic Cross at Rathnew Cemetery.

Another outstanding player for Rathnew was J. Merrigan, who to-day is in the unique position that he can show medals won as member of teams that played "21," "17," and "15" men aside.

The late Mr. J. H. McCarroll became chairman in 1896, with Mr. P. Kearney, of "Wicklow Star," as secretary, and in this year Wicklow made a great show in the Leinster Championships. Their first match was against Offaly at Jones's Road. Rathnew selected the members of the team for Wicklow; Tullamore selected for Offaly. With Tim Doyle and Merrigan, Rathnew had selected from their own ranks, T. Gill, P. Behan, H. Doyle, J. Gorman, afterwards of Kildare fame, and M. Hall; also prominent for us were "Tom" O'Carroll, the hefty full-back from Wicklow town, to this day one of the keenest supporters of the code; Major Con MacSweeney, still hale and hearty in Aughrim; J. Nolan, Clash.

Wicklow was beaten on a replay that year by the famous "Young Irelanders" of Dublin, All-Ireland Champions, led by a Wicklow-man, George Roche.

The succeeding years found Wicklow also prominent in fights against the great Kickhams and other combinations, and amongst their best players then were Mr. "Tom" Butler, now of Tullow; Mr. J. J. Barry, Rathdrum, now member of Wicklow County Council, and Mr. J. M. Bergin, who can still show the youth how to throw weights about.

Rathnew were now the leaders of the County, and were being frequently challenged by Wicklow Town, for whom G. McGrainor, J. Dunn, E. McCall and "Balty" Kavanagh were pre-eminent; both these teams contributed largely with the proceeds of tournaments to the funds for the '98 Monument in the County Town.

In 1901 the county was re-organised. The late Mr. Luke O'Toole, just then elected Secretary of the Central Council, was present; the late Mr. M. Murtagh, N.T., became chairman, and he was ably assisted and supported by the present Mr. J. J. Redmond, County Council, of Greystones, and Mr. P. Behan, Rathnew, now in Canada, who was treasurer-secretary.

Notwithstanding the fact that the County still had great footballers, and that teams like Rathnew could meet and overcome the Bray Emmetts and Isles of the Sea, All-Ireland Champions; Wicklow fell behind in the inter-county championships.

Mr. W, J. Duffy, still attached to the Togher Club, became secretary in 1905; the late Mr. E. J. Murphy, Tinahely, was treasurer. In that year the Leinster Council established the special competition for weak counties, viz.:—Carlow, Longford, Westmeath and Wicklow, and in the first round played that year Wicklow was defeated by Carlow in their third re-play. Wicklow under Captain Tom Kavanagh, one of the finest of the many stalwart Gaelic players from Rathnew Village, and still helping in many ways, won the 1906 competition, the finals of which were played in 1907.

I attended my first County Convention in 1907, and was appointed County representative to the Central Council, each County at that time having one representative. Mr. L. Fleming, Barndarrig, succeeded Mr. Murtagh on the County Board; Mr. J. Crean, now in America, was elected V.-P., with Mr. L. J. Kelly, Rathdrum, as treasurer and Mr. Duffy re-elected secretary.

The Junior Championships were established on their existing basis in 1908, with the four counties mentioned

(Continued on Page 87).

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IT TOOK KERRY YEARS TO BEAT WEXFORD'S FOUR-YEAR RECORD

"We have no complexes —and no misgivings"

Says

Padraig Kehoe, T,D.

Wexford—All-Ireland Winners, 1910.

THE History of the G.A.A. in Wexford! Why, 'tis the history of the G.A.A. in any other county, the record of rapid development, of measured progress, of high endeavour, of sacrifice, the babel of tongues in council, the setbacks, occasionally encountered only to be surmounted, the red letter days when we won through, the silent eves when we treked home beaten, the parochial clashes and the All-Ireland finals. "Oh, to think of them." To even limn the outlines of the Association in Wexford would need a mighty canvas; mine will be merely an impressionist sketch, nor do I wish to befog the picture with over-detailed data.

In the building of the stately edifice whose Jubilee we celebrate this year, Wexford has contributed its share, whether from the viewpoint of physical prowess or of statesmanlike counsels.

It shares with Kerry the proud distinction of having secured four All-Irelands in football in successive years: and, with Kildare, six Leinsters, also in successive years.

To achieve this is no mean feat. It pre-supposes football ability of a high order for, hard as it is to achieve distinction, it is equally difficult in these days of challenging iconoclasts to maintain it. The way of the champion, like that of the transgressor, is hard, and the "levelling-up" progress of latter-day teams tends to rudely disturb the complacency of the "old gods." In one respect Wexford shows a decline, and that in a quarter where progress might well be not merely hoped for, but almost axiomatic.

We Lost Hurling!

And that is in the Hurling arena. Mo bhrón, that this should be so. For if tradition counts for anything, and who can gainsay it, Wexford should lead the band in the finest field game bar none, known to humanity.

Did our hurlers not hurl before England's monarch two hundred years ago, a consummation "devoutly to be deplored," no doubt, but yet interesting in so far as it shows the antiquity of the game with us.

Yet of late years, with the glorious exception of 1910, when we beat Limerick in a pulsating All-Ireland Final at Croke Park, we have retrograded sadly in caman craft. And, reverting to that memorable final of 1910, we can claim, I fancy, a unique record. Every man who did his bit that day is hale and hearty still, twenty-four years after! Come to think of it, it is not often that it can be said of any group that its units are still to the good, almost a quarter of a century after they were first taken!

How to arrest this decline in hurling skill is exercising gravely the minds of those who control and follow the fortunes of the G.A.A. in Wexford. As in all other field games, whilst dexterity can, no doubt, be acquired by practice, and indeed is often inborn, it cannot nevertheless be denied that coaching, when practised by experts, is a factor that cannot be ignored as an adjunct to success in hurling, and it must commence in the schools.

Had the present writer his way some veteran Gael would be appointed at a decent salary to coach budding hurlers in each county.

"A little help is worth a great deal of pity," runs the old saying.

Hurling has become so fast of late years and its possibilities so boundless, that the youth of to-day deserve to have it explained and eulogised instead of taken as a matter of course. And, though now dormant, comparatively speaking, with us there is no county, not excepting even those areas which are now predominant in the hurling arena, whose traditions, as already stated, in hurling are more firmly fixed or should be more potent than ours! Not merely in the day when the Elizabethan marauders ravaged the land, but in and around '98 our forebears hurled, and to some purpose too. Does not James Murphy sing:

> *"And the hurlers from Duffry, like children at play*
> *Were the Yeos in their hands, when they grappled that day."*

"And even then, and thence till now," the old game has gone on and "later times" saw Blackwater and Castlebridge carry their camans on many a hard-fought field when the motto was that of the old Greeks: "Come home with your shield or on it." And so 'twixt alternating hopes and fears, to the splendid crescendo already alluded to. What a day! Even yet, when the wells of remembrance are stirred, that day of glory comes back, and the frenzied cheer of the spectators applauding alike the tiger dashes of the Limerick forwards, led on by "Tyler" Mackay; and the rock-like defence of the Wexford backs—the Fortunes, Seán O'Kennedy, and Roche, the *cúlbáire*, ring even in the ears of those whose privilege it was to see the match and whose hope it is that history will repeat itself. Another idea of the writer is that, with a view to popularising hurling in any area that promising minors should be given a free trip to the All-Ireland Hurling each year, as a reward and an incentive.

The blare of brass, the march past, the National Anthem, all those colourful details would thrill and nerve the gallant hearts of youth. Why not try it, Co. Committees?

Yes, Wexford hurlers are heirs to great traditions, and if growing enthusiasm, ever-increasing clubs and a genuine desire to "get there," be any indication, we shall not falsify them.

Bright Football Future.

Turning to football, our future is bright. That "little more, and how much it is" is all that we need. We have been on the very brink of victory so often of late that it must come soon. We have youth on our side, plus a natural aptitude for football. It is, perhaps, too much to hope for a renewal of the spacious days of "'15-'18" when we stood "out on our own."

As a machine it would not be easy to match that sterling combination, possessing as it did possibly the finest full-back line in the annals of Gaelic football:—

Mackey, Rev. Fr. Wheeler, and Byrne. Three backs utterly dissimilar in style, withal each impassable. Truly, a team to sigh for and to emulate. But why should they not be good? Wexford's credentials in Gaelic football are no mushroom ones, from the days when the famous Young Irelands defeated Dromtariffe in 1893 on through the "Croke Cup," which we won against Fermoy in 1899. There were giants in those days, men who have made their mark in life to some effect. Amongst these may be mentioned Tom Redmond, the peerless Hoey of football days, now happily a prosperous proprietor in a leading city bakery. Others there were, like Mike Cummins, who after helping to win the shield for Kilkenny against Munster in hurling, did duty for his own county by winning the Croke Cup in the final of the All-Ireland Hurling against Limerick in 1910.

In a day when both football and hurling were far more strenuous than now, Mike Cummins stood out, a man amongst men.

Happily, he is still hale and hearty in his native Ballymurrin, the little parish which sponsored the Croke Cup winners of '99.

To the administrative sphere of the G.A.A. we can lay claim to have furnished an outstanding example of what a legislator should be. I refer now to "Wat" Hanrahan, as he was affectionately known, a Secretary possessing every attribute which stamps the ideal, judgment, financial acumen and unpurchasable integrity, a canny wit allied to an intuition which made him one of the most respected handicappers of his day.

Woe to the man who tried to beat the pistol, and as for the athlete who failed, or tried to, under false colours — well, he got a telling off that he never forgot.

The soul of honour and of hospitality—to know Wat Hanrahan was a privilege. To those who had not that privilege one can at least say in the words of the essayist, "*Si monumentum requiris, circumspici.*" For there is a monument to his memory that will outlast steel or granite—no less a memorial than the Leinster Council, a body which reflects in the fullest degree the qualities which characterised its virtual founder: Business ability, method incarnate and straightforward dealing.

And the Wexford tradition persists here too, for in Martin O'Neill, the present Secretary, the Leinster Council possesses an officer of rare versatility and a footballer of genius.

All told we enter the Jubilee Year with no misgivings. We have a plethora of clubs and an admirable executive. There is something to be done; there will always be something to be done, but this much may be said—nowhere in Ireland are the main issues which differentiate us from other codes more clearly defined; nowhere are breaches more quickly spotted or more decisively reprobated. None of your Hurling-Rugby complexes for Wexford! The star that shone for Croke and Cusack will do for us. Wexford is proud of her boys, and they of her.

G.A.A. FINALS

£420 in Prizes

See Page 93

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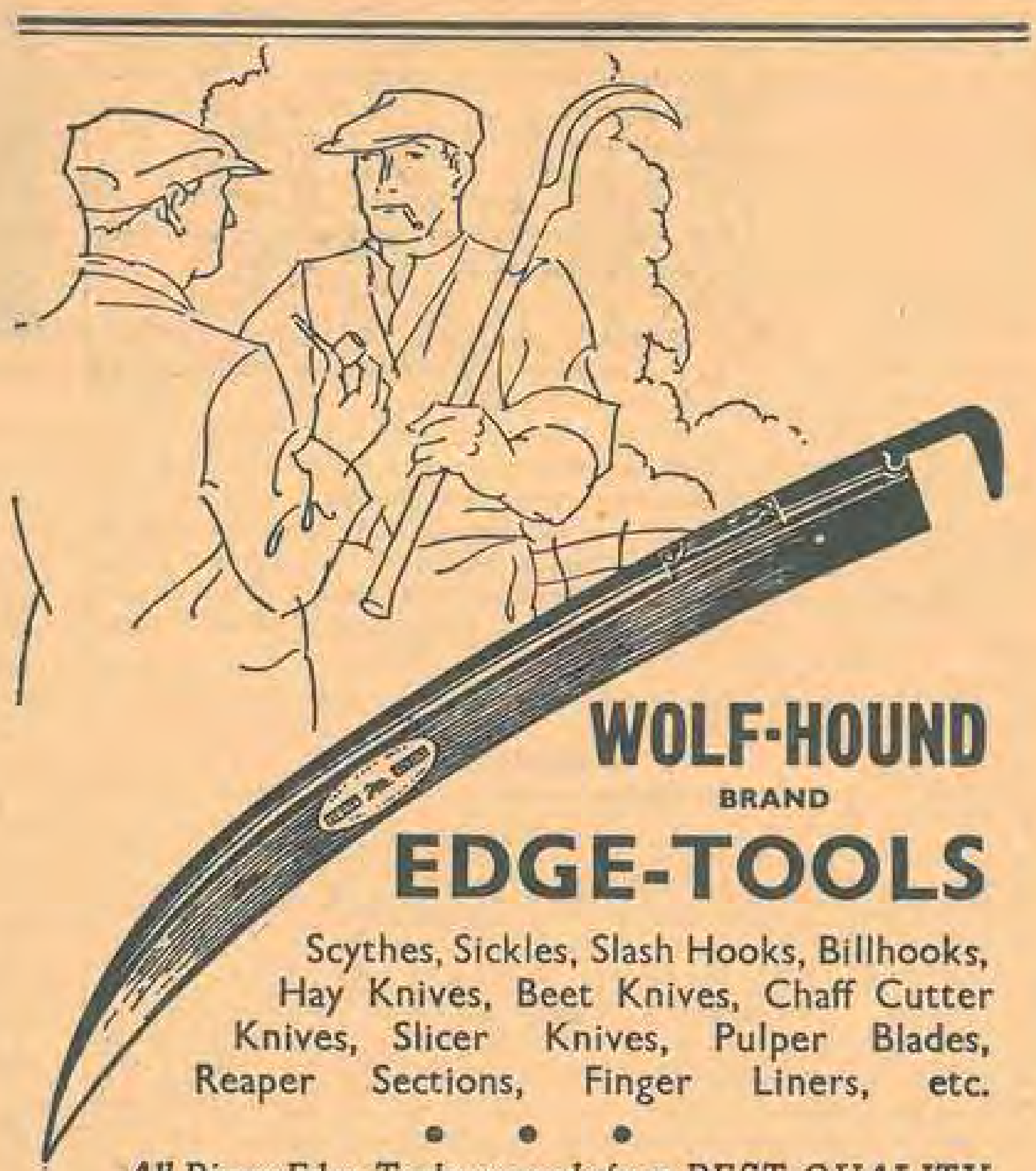

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STORY OF WICKLOW

(Continued from Page 84).

graded junior. Our County won out this championship in 1909, beating Wexford in a replay, Carlow, Louth, and Westmeath in the final, with Tom Kavanagh again their leader. Those years saw Wicklow in its prime.

◆ ◆ ◆

High hopes were entertained in 1930, especially when we triumphed over Wexford again in the first round, but failed against Kildare. In 1930, Father Hanton left for California, and I succeeded as Chairman, a position I have held since; I had as V.-P., Mr. P. J. Noonan, journalist, of Wicklow, who brought much energy and great administrative ability into the affairs of the County Board, and with " Mick " Keating, of inter-provincial fame, declaring for his native county, we had great hopes from our team. " Mick " captained us at Arklow against Dublin, and many impartial spectators expressed the opinion that on the respective merits, Wicklow should have won. Our hurling team was more easily accounted for.

While we made a poor display in 1932 we made amends last season. Mr. Martin O'Neill, Secretary, Leinster Council, records in his annual report:—" Wicklow went through the secona round (junior football) and conveniently beat a fancied Wexford side. . . . . A splendid competition had a fitting climax when Carlow and Wicklow served up the best junior football final ever played in the province. Carlow secured the verdict by the narrowest margin and were lucky to do so."

The County Board held their annual Convention on the 28th January last in Carnew, and I was struck by the confident feelings expressed. The outgoing officers were re-elected, except that Mr. McCra cam len as co-trustee with myself. That Convention was businesslike, and elected a County Board, using, in doing so, the basis note that Wicklow will make the Jubilee Year their most successful in the history of Wicklow Gaeldom. Le conghnamh Dé.

EMIGRATION ROBBED OFFALY OF HER GREATEST TEAMS

They went away when they could have grasped the Ard-Chraobh

THE games of the Gael always have flourished in Offaly. The county has taken a prominent part in the work of the G.A.A. and Offaly men, as players and administrators, have filled important positions both on the playing fields and in the Council rooms.

The first All-Ireland hurling final, that for 1887, was played in Birr in the field next on the railway side to St. Brendan's Park, the present Birr Gaelic Grounds, on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1888. The match was between Tipperary (Thurles) and Galway (Meelick). The teams dressed at Cunningham's Hotel (now owned by Mr. W. Egan, The Green) and paraded through the town. Mr. Patrick White, Birr, was the referee. Mr. White at first declined to take charge of the whistle stating that he was a native of Thurles district but, on being pressed, and on the Galway players telling him that they had every confidence in his impartiality, he consented. The game was spiritedly contested but there was not a very large attendance of spectators. Tipperary won on a score of one goal, one point, and one forfeit point to nil. Tipperary's goal was scored by Paddy Leahy.

When Offaly Was "Unofficial."

In 1888 the first American "Invasion" took place when hurling and athletic teams were sent to the United States. Throughout the country the idea was taken up with enthusiasm, and no where more so than in Offaly. Offaly had four representatives on the Irish team—Messrs. J. Cordial, Kinnitty; J. Dunne, Rahan; J. Nolan, Dunkerrin; and P. Meleady, Birr. Of these all have passed away with the exception of Mr. Cordial who, hale and hearty, may now be said to be the "grand old man" of the Offaly G.A.A. The Irish team was accompanied to America by Rev. J. Concannon, the then C.C. at Rahan, Tullamore, who was a source of inspiration to the Gaels of his day. Prior to their departure the Irish team gave exhibitions of their prowess at a tournament at the old sports field at Spollinstown, Tullamore.

Through misunderstandings Offaly Gaels did not immediately affiliate with Cusack's young Association. There were County Championships and a County governing body but these Championships cannot now be recognised as part of the County G.A.A. records.

A team drawn from Moneygall, Dunkerrin and Barna defeated Roscomroe in a final about 1887 and Killoughey for about five years were champions. But there were strong forces in the County making for unity. Prominent amongst these were Mr. John Guinan, Killyon; Mr. Patk. White, Birr; and Mr. John Dooley, then a young player, who afterwards was to become a leading light in Offaly. In 1893 a meeting was held at Clara band rooms, at which all the then Offaly clubs were represented, and the present Offaly County Board was formed as an affiliated unit of the Central organisation. Mr. C. Doorley, Meelaghans, was the first chairman and until about 1898 he also represented the County on the Central Council. The second chairman of the County Board was Mr. John Dooley, now resident at Crinkle, Birr, and for twelve years he was a member of the Central Council. Amongst other chairmen of the Offaly G.A.A. have been Rev. F. Culligan, C.C., Kinnitty; Rev. M. Crowe, C.C., Birr; Mr. L. J. Molloy, Drumcullen; Mr. Sean Robbins, Birr; Rev. J. Keegan, C.C., Clara; and Mr. P. Crowley, Killeigh (who was elected at the last convention on the transfer of Father Keegan from the County). For many years Offaly was represented on the Leinster Council by Mr. John Condron, Tullamore; and Mr. L. J. Molloy; and the present representatives (who have held office for a long period) are Messrs. Sean Robbins and Mr. Stephen Cloonan, Tullamore. Mr. Cloonan is at present Secretary of the Offaly County Board and his popularity is well shown by his selection for some years as a Leinster representative on the Central Council. Mr. Sean Robbins is well known as an All-Ireland referee. Amongst former County Secretaries in Offaly have been Mr. Patrick Healy, Ballycumber; Mr. J. D. Lehane, Ballycumber; Mr. Joseph P. Dunne, Tullamore; Mr. James Corrigan, Clareen; Mr. M. Kelly, Ballinaguilsha; and Mr. D. Molloy, Birr.

The 1932 Championships constituted a record as in that year the senior hurling and football Championships were won by Tullamore, ten of the players playing with both the hurling and football teams.

Traditional Gaelic "Clans."

Offaly has a number of noted hurling families, who carry on the old traditions. Mr. J. Cordial, Kinnitty, himself an early "American Invader," has his sons Michael, Andy and Will amongst the best hurlers of the Offaly Club in New York, while Jim plays with the home team. Messrs. Brendan and John Dooley, the sons of Mr. John Dooley, Crinkle, have deserved reputations both at home and in America and the younger son, Joe, also is a good player. The late Mr. Michael Grogan, Killyon, was one of Offaly's best known inter-county hurlers and his sons are members of the Drumcullen team. The sons of another old Gael, Mr. John Carroll, Coolderry, are well to the fore. Passing through the years the names of many Offaly hurlers will come to mind. They include:—Jack Kirwan; the Molloys, the Spains, Fox, Guinans, Jack Tooher, P. Lyons, of Drumcullen; Jack Clear, Dick and Joe Kelly, the Maddens, the Keenans, the Dooleys, Jim Lalor of Coolderry, the Corrigans of Clareen, Mick and Will Mitchell, Fortal; Craven, Kinnarneys, T. Lawless, Killoughey; Jim O'Donnell, Coolderry, Offaly's goalie, boy and man, has been hurling for over twenty-four years.

James Pike

A fine instance of Gaelic chivalry was shown in 1905 when Kilkenny met Offaly at Abbeyleix in the Leinster Championship. "Fox" Meagher was playing left back for Kilkenny on Jack Kirwan for Offaly. With the ball between them Kirwan accidentally broke "Fox's" thumb. Kirwan with the ball at his feet threw down his hurl and went to his opponent's assistance. "Why did you not hit the ball," asked "Fox," "Do you think I am a savage?" replied Kirwan. "If I were in your place I would have struck it," said "Fox." When the game resumed the ball again was in Kirwan's possession.

Birr Presentation School Minors have been champions since, practically, .931.

J. Cordial, member of "American Invasion" team.

The Kilkenny men fell back saying, "He acted as a man. He deserves his stroke." Kirwan seeing that Kilkenny would not oppose tossed the ball with his foot to the side line amid cheers.

Offaly that day were beaten by a point. When "Fox" Meagher, after an All Ireland Final,, was presented with a caman he gave it to Mr. John Dooley, Crinkle, and it is still in existence.

Offaly has two Junior All Ireland hurling finals to its credit, both gained from Cork. The team which won at Croke Park in 1923 was one of the best Offaly ever placed in the field. It was captained by Mr. Stephan Cloonan (who through an injury to his knee was not able to play against Cork). On the Cork side were such well-known players at D. Barry Murphy, M. Murphy, and Baltie Aherne.

The pity was that Offaly could not keep the team together. It would have won Senior honours. Emigration set in.

Andy and Mick Cordial, Kinnitty; W. Fox, Drumcullen; J. Horan, Coolderry; and W. Ryan, Birr, went to America to help the New York Offaly Club to win the American Senior hurling Championships in 1925, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1931. Names to mention, of Offaly Gaels in New York, are Mr. P. J. Grimes (Kinnitty) who was manager of one of the American Tailtean teams and a promotor of Celtic Park, New York; and Mr. F. Pilkington, Clareen, the Secretary of the New York Offaly Hurling Club.

Offaly to Have New Park.

Gaelic football, with such exceptions as Cloghan and Ferbane, has been played more in the North than in the South end of the county. Tullamore, Rhode and Geashill have been strong football centres. Names to be remembered in connection with Offaly football are:—Messrs. Guinan, Lawrence, Madden, Chrystal, Geashill; the Doyles and Murrays of Clara; Garland, Tullamore, and Crowley (present chairman of the Co. Board). For a number of years Offaly was graded junior in football but is now in the senior rank.

Mr. John Condron, Tullamore, who was then in Belmont, states that in 1893 a Gaelic football club was formed in Cloghan by Mr. M. Camon, Mr. J. Ryan, and himself, and that soon after other clubs were organised in Tullamore, Ballinahown, Sharavogue and Shinrone. Cloghan certainly was represented when the County Board was formed at Clara the same year, as also were Killeigh, Ferbane, Tullamore and Ballinahown.

There are three permanent Gaelic grounds in Offaly. The great driving force behind the organisation of the St. Brendan's Park, Birr, was Mr. Sean Robbins. The pitch is a splendid one and All-Ireland semi-finals have been played on it. A new park to replace the present one will be opened in Tullamore this summer. Mr. Stephen Cloonan is a big factor towards its success. Rhode Club recently acquired permanent grounds from the Land Commission on the break up of some grazing tracts in the district.

Handball in Offaly has been handicapped by the lack of good alleys, but last year Murray, a Birr player, won the Junior Soft Ball Final.

In 1933 there were 101 hurling and football clubs in the county. In 1908 there were only 18.

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HOW G.A.A. WON ITS INDEPENDENCE

By P. J. KAVANAGH

IT is a long way for one to stretch back in memory to the stirring events of that day, 45 years ago; yet I might go back a bit further, to 1884-5, when I got together and captained the second boys' Dublin Hurling Club—"The Desmonds"—the "Celtics" being the first.

It was about the Fall of 1888 when either the first Leinster or All-Ireland Athletic Championship was held at Inchicore. M. A. Sweeney, the then 220 yards champion of Ireland, had been suspended for life by the I.A.A.A. for competing under a wrong name at Stamford Bridge, London. His case was reconsidered by the G.A.A. Council and Sweeney was reinstated. The I.A.A.A. Council demurred and threatened suspension for any athlete that competed against Sweeney.

The faithful, and, indeed, the few, supported Sweeney and were promptly suspended; but it was added that "if they attended the following Thursday's meeting of the I.A.A.A. and apologised, they would be reinstated." Some did; I and a few others did not. The next big meeting, the First Trades Sports, was entered for by me, and, of course, by some who had apologised.

The Sports were held at Inchicore again, at the back of the present range of houses some yards below Inchicore Church. As well as I can remember, the secretary was a Mr. Rea, or Drea, of the St. Patrick's H.C., and undoubtedly the handicapper was "Sonny" Kirwan, of *Sport* staff.

It was my first time out. As the race was about to start, I was objected to, and asked to get off. I was "not having any," and would not budge. "The meeting," I argued, principally, "was run under G.A.A. rules as well as I.A.A.A. rules, and the G.A.A. did not suspend me and I was a G.A.A. athlete solely."

I will give what followed in the writings of "Huckleberry Bill" (now deceased) in "Our Famous Irish Athletes" *Ireland's Own*, 1921, who, by the way, was on the *Irish Times* staff. He was a very reliable authority.

"Briefly, some fellows had been suspended by the I.A.A. for taking part in a meeting in which a suspended man was competing. Remember all sports at the time were held under both Associations, I.A.A. and G.A.A. Some lads caved into the former Association, and others, amongst whom was Kavanagh, determined, come weal come woe, to stand by the G.A.A. Reynolds (then Dublin champion hammer-thrower), out of the same "stable" as J.P., entered for a meeting, the first Trades' Sports, which was run under both rules. Another 'suspended' was McCabe, the mile runner of Breffni, now resident in Blackrock. The entries were accepted and the hour of the meeting arrived; so also did the trouble. Kavanagh was entered (first effort at the distance) for the 220 yards, in which he had eight yards. It fell out that he was in the first fight. He was flying the G.A.A. ensign as his insignia. Immediately he stepped on the mark the virtual scratch (an I.A.A. man) objected to him. The objection was supported by others. For betting purposes it was stated among the knowing ones that the race lay between the objector (virtual scratch), an employee of the *Freeman's Journal*, and Kavanagh. There was a battle-royal. Kavanagh's reply to the I.A.A.A. objectors was that he was under G.A.A. rules and would run if the race came off at all. He kept one foot on his mark and the other on the side line. If virtual scratch left his mark (during the argument) Kavanagh removed one foot off his; if scratch went back on his mark Kavanagh only had to shift one foot to be immediately on his mark again. There was no chance of firing the pistol and leaving Kavanagh behind. So the pantomime went on for about half an hour. In the meantime, Kavanagh, who is possessed of all an Irishman's volubility, kept arguing away and had the support of a large number of the spectators. Determination won the day, and the virtual scratch, after a Council of War with his friends, retired. The race was started and continued amidst thunders of applause all around the course, there being about half a dozen runners. Kavanagh had passed the limit man, who had 20yds., before quarter the distance was run, and won by double his handicap. Such cheering! Well I never! Any reader who was there will vividly remember that scene. The prize—presented by the Clonmel Trades Council—a handsome silver-plated claret jug, with deer horn handle and grape vine entwining, was withheld for a month by Dublin Trades' Council.

"This sort of thing continued for a considerable period; suspensions, objections, victories for the G.A.A. lads and so on. The suspended G.A.A. athletes attended all Meetings held under the rulings of both Associations. The result was soon there was an army of suspends. The last meeting under such circumstances was held at Drogheda, and here the battle was won and it started on an independent basis. It was Joseph P. Kavanagh's last race in Ireland, for early in May the following season he arrived in New York."

THE TEAM ON WHICH KILDARE KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE

The Laoighis men hate to meet the "Lily Whites"—it's a "bogey"

All-Ireland Hurling Champions, 1915.

GAELIC Games and Pastimes have always been in the forefront in Laoighis, the ancient territory of the O'Moore's, and while the County was not represented at the establishing of the Association, the following year saw clubs established under the formulated rules of the Association. In 1886, football teams from Rathdowney and Durrow played a drawn game. In passing, it seems strange that those two areas have now become foremost hurling centres and that the football game is hard to establish there. Borris-in-Ossory and Rapla also had clubs in this year (1886) and were represented at the Annual Convention in Thurles on November 15th.

Laoighis had not yet formed a County Committee in 1887 and so did not take part in the Inter-County games.

The reconstruction meeting of the Association was held at Thurles on January 4, 1888, and Laoighis was amongst the 19 counties represented. John Meagher was elected to represent the County. The "American Invasion" teams of that year included P. Ryan (Rathdowney) and J. McEvoy (Knockaroo) who remained in the "States."

Laoighis had teams in the All-Ireland Competitions of 1888 and met Kilkenny in hurling and football. The matches were played at Portlaoighise on June 10th and Kilkenny won both games.

Laoighis Gaels held their first Convention in this year ('88) and the officers elected were P. A. Meehan (President); J. Walsh (Knock) Treasurer, and S. J. Muldowney (Ballinakill) Secretary.

In the Provincial Championships of 1889 Rathdowney gave a walk-over to Dublin in the hurling final, while the footballers met Bohercrowe (Tipperary) in the final on October 20. The Laoighis team (Portlaoighise) had played a couple of Inter-County games the previous Sunday and were hardly at their best, and were beaten by 3-6 to nil.

In 1890, Laoighis were drawn against Kildare in hurling and football, Ballyroan having the football selection and Clonaslee doing duty in hurling. Kildare did not field teams, and in the next rounds played at Clonturk Park, Dublin, **The Isles of the Sea** (Dublin) beat **Ballyroan** by 2-8 to 0-1, while Castlebridge (Wexford) beat Clonaslee by 2-9 to 0-3.

In 1893, Laoighis had no representative on the Central Council, as the County had fallen short of the required number of teams, and there is little mention of Laoighis in official records till 1896. There were then ten football teams competing in the local championships. In 1897 there were fifteen affiliated clubs in Laoighis.

The County was now successfully reorganised and clubs sprang up in many new centres, and Kilcotton and Rathdowney became very prominent in hurling. Mr. R. O'Keeffe, the present Chairman of the Leinster Council, was at this time prominently identified in the former team, and they won the Senior Championship for the first time in 1906 when Rahennabrogue were the Senior Football Champions. Rathdowney again became hurling champions in 1907-8, while the football champions were Portlaoighise and Stradbally.

Laoighis figured in the Leinster Hurling Final in 1909 when, on October 3, they were beaten by Kilkenny at St. James's Park by 5-16 to 2-7. Kilcotton were local champions in that year, having beaten Clonaslee by 2-10 to 4-3 at Portlaoighise.

Laoighise reached the Leinster Hurling Final in 1912, but lost to Kilkenny at Portlaoighise by 6-6 to 2-4. Our team beat Kilkenny in the Junior tie.

The final of the Croke Cup at Kilkenny in 1913 resulted in Laoighise getting a walk-over from Tipperary at Kilkenny. The match was later fixed and played at Portlaoighise on March 30, and Tipperary won by 5-3 to 2-2.

By

Sean Barrett

In 1914, Laoighis, who had been showing improved form in all their games, had a great win over Kilkenny in the Senior Hurling Final, played at Kilkenny on August 2.

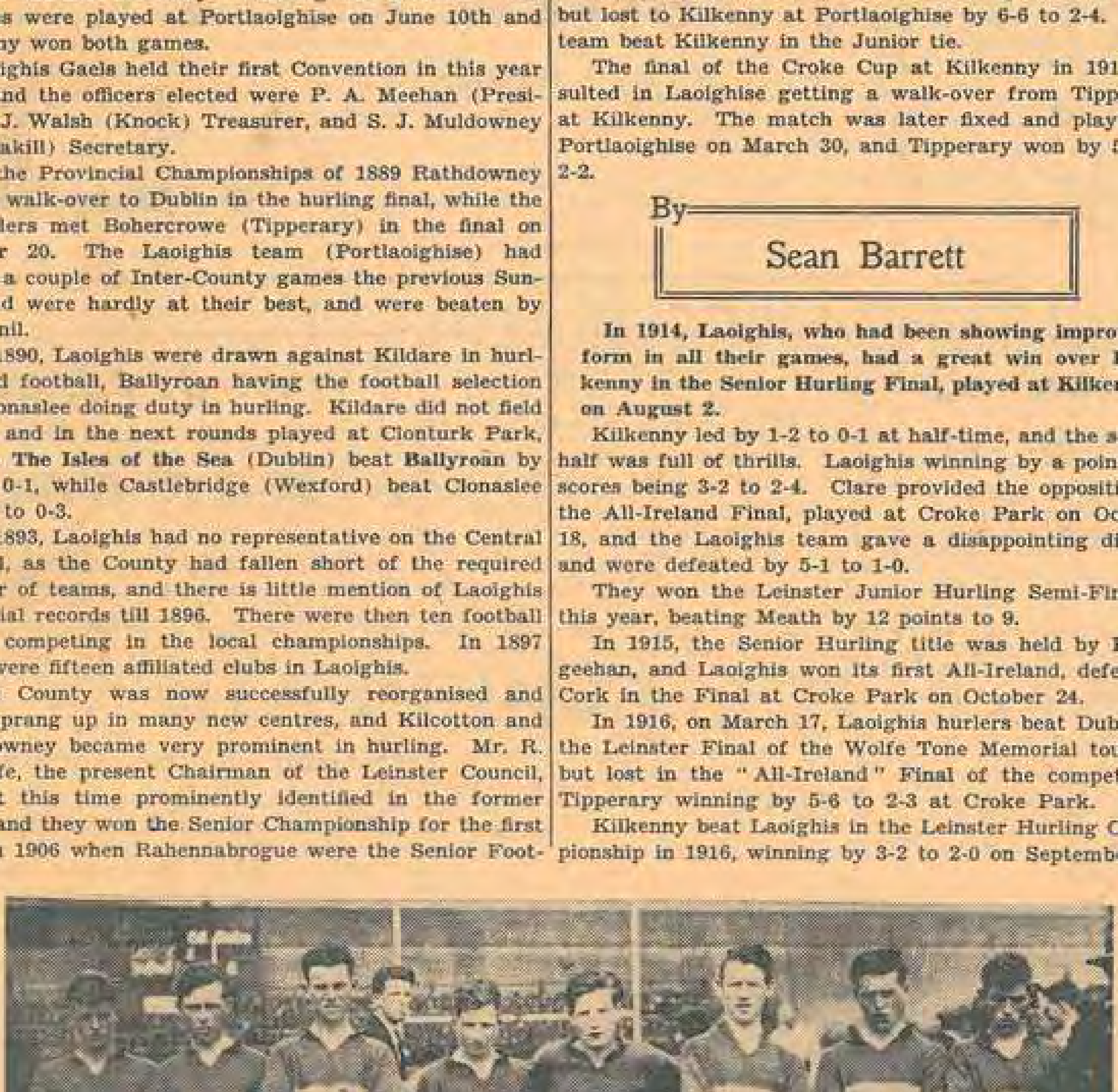
Kilkenny led by 1-2 to 0-1 at half-time, and the second half was full of thrills. Laoighis winning by a point, the scores being 3-2 to 2-4. Clare provided the opposition in the All-Ireland Final, played at Croke Park on October 18, and the Laoighis team gave a disappointing display and were defeated by 5-1 to 1-0.

They won the Leinster Junior Hurling Semi-Final in this year, beating Meath by 12 points to 9.

In 1915, the Senior Hurling title was held by Ballygeehan, and Laoighis won its first All-Ireland, defeating Cork in the Final at Croke Park on October 24.

In 1916, on March 17, Laoighis hurlers beat Dublin in the Leinster Final of the Wolfe Tone Memorial tourney, but lost in the "All-Ireland" Final of the competition, Tipperary winning by 5-6 to 2-3 at Croke Park.

Kilkenny beat Laoighis in the Leinster Hurling Championship in 1916, winning by 3-2 to 2-0 on September 16, whilst Wexford beat Laoighis by 2-3 to 0-1 in junior football.



Leinster Champions, 1932—Laoighis Minors.

Laoighis hurlers went out in the first round of the 1917 Leinster Championship, losing to Offaly at Ballybrophy on June 24 by 3-7 to 3-2. In football, Laoighis beat Carlow at Graiguecullen by 5 points to 1 on August 26, but Wexford won the final. Ballygeehan (H) and Ballyroan (F) were local champions in 1917.

In the opening rounds of the 1918 Championships, Offaly again beat Laoighis, whose local champions were Ballygeehan, while Portlaoighise held the football championship.

In 1919, at Newbridge, Kildare beat Laoighis in football before a big crowd, and Kilcotton became hurling champions, while Abbeyleix took the football honours.

The following year was a quiet one in Laoighis.

In 1921, Laoighis were drawn against Kildare in football and against Offaly in hurling. Both games were lost, and Rathdowney became hurling champions, while Portarlington annexed the football title. Both those teams retained honours in 1922.

Mr. R. O'Keeffe was elected on the Central Council in 1922, and in that year Laoighis defeated Meath in senior hurling, and lost to Kildare by 4-4 to 1-1 in senior football.

It seems strange, but Kildare still continues to be the "Bogey" team of Laoighis.

The year 1923 saw no change in the fortunes of Laoighis, for on May 24 they were beaten by Kilkenny at Croke Park. The game was a thrilling one and an unusually high standard of hurling was seen.

In 1925, Laoighise were again defeated by Kilkenny, this time at Tullamore, and Laoighis juniors also lost to Kilkenny, being beaten in the semi-final at Portlaoighise on September 13. Laoighis took part in the National Hurling League of that period and finished third on the table, with 6 points for 6 games played.

Our selection won Division 3 of the Football League, and beat Kerry by 1-6 to 1-5 in the Inter-Group match. They then beat Sligo by 4-6 to 1-4 on a replay, and beat Dublin at New Ross by 2-1 to 1-0.

Thus to Laoighis footballers fell the honour of winning the first National Football League.

Wexford junior hurlers beat Laoighis in the final at Croke Park on November 7 of that year, the scores being 4-1 to 3-1.

It is a tribute that all our officers were re-elected every year since 1927 and were returned unopposed at the 1934 Convention.

Graigue-Cullen, who had been playing in the Carlow Championships, returned to Laoighis in 1927 and succeeded in winning the Senior Championship, defeating Stradbally.

Laoighis sprang a surprise in that year by defeating Dublin at Croke Park in the Hurling League and later drew with Tipperary at Portlaoighise, and beat Limerick in League hurling by 5-2 to 2-2.

In 1928, Laoighis had first round victories over Offaly in both hurling and football at Portlaoighise, and in the next round beat Wexford in hurling, but they lost in Junior football. At Athy, Kildare again beat them in senior football. Laoighis junior hurlers qualified for the Leinster Final by beating Dublin, but lost to Kilkenny in the deciding tie. Mr. L. Brady, the present Chairman of the County Board, was captain in both games. Stradbally were the senior football champions in this year.

The year 1929 saw Kildare footballers again defeat Laoighis in a League deciding tie at Athy, but Laoighis won the Leinster football game against Wexford at Kilkenny. The Senior hurlers beat Offaly, the Minor footballers also winning on the same day against Offaly.

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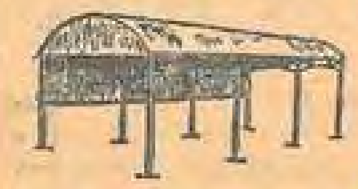

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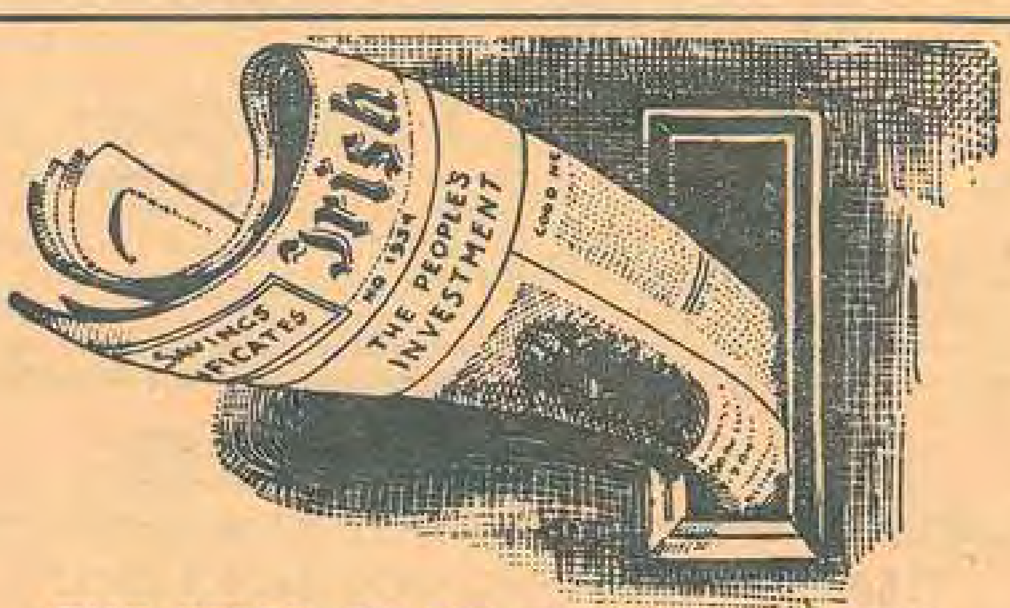

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THE LITTLE COUNTY KEPT ON PEGGING AWAY DOGGEDLY

When Carlow *did* get going their first home contest was staged to honour the memory of the dead of '98

By Graigue Cullen

Carlow depends on these for its future.

BEFORE the organisation of the G.A.A., wrestling was a popular pastime in Carlow, and Annual Contests were held with adjoining counties. It is recorded that so popular was the sport in many quarters that for years after the inauguration of the Association, football practice and wrestling matches were rather closely allied. Bowling which was generally described as "Bullet Throwing," was also played in several parts of the county.

To Father Lawler, P.P., Rathoe, Tullow, belongs the distinction of introducing the first leather-covered football to the county. In 1886 he was a student at St. Patrick's College, Carlow, and when going on vacation to his native Rathvilly, on the north-east border of the county, he fetched the ball with him. Gathering a few of his young friends, they went to a field near the village and kicked the ball about. The news spread like wildfire and soon a huge crowd gathered, all anxious to get a kick at the ball, which was chased enthusiastically up and down and round and round the field, the most kicks falling to the swiftest and strongest.

It is recorded that this first hectic game only concluded when a young man, who wore a huge pair of nailed boots, drove the ball into the whitethorns and punctured it.

To Carlow Town belongs the honour of organising the first G.A.A. club, and members of the staff of "The Nationalist and Leinster Times" along with others connected with the commercial life of the town, were actively identified with this pioneer work.

It is gratifying to write that to-day a member of the staff of the same paper—Mr. Tom Little—is one of the stalwarts of the G.A.A. in Co. Carlow.

Carlow's example spread like wildfire, and soon clubs had sprung up all over the county. On 2nd April, 1888, the first meeting of the Association was held at the Young Men's Catholic Club, Carlow, there being present 17 delegates representing 9 clubs. It was decided to postpone championships until 1889. At a Convention held in Tullow in October, 1888, 13 clubs were represented, and the chairman appealed to clubs to carry out their matches in a sporting spirit.

The first Co. Championship football match was played on the famous Ballybar Racecourse in March, 1889, between Carlow and Donore. It caused tremendous interest and was witnessed by a huge crowd. Carlow won, and went on to win the championship—as was appropriate for the club that set the games in motion. Gaelic crosses were presented to the winning team as trophies. During 1889 two teams were expelled for rough play, and some club members for attacking referees, and a controversy in the Press, initiated by a clergyman, dealt with rowdyism at matches with apparently good results.

Playing for hire was not unknown at this period, and steps were taken to expel those who did so.

(*Continued on page* 95.)

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THE EDITOR'S DECISION IS FINAL

THERE WAS GREAT GLAMOUR IN THE "LILY-WHITE" MATCHES

Kildare, light and active—Kerry sturdy and stolid; styles at variance; hillmen and plainsmen thrilled all Ireland

Kerry and Kildare bring largest gathering to the Stadium.

ALTHOUGH the G.A.A. was initiated in 1884, football and hurling had been played between parishes in many parts of Ireland. Particularly was this so in Co. Kildare, where some of the old residents recount many stirring incidents, which occurred in football and hurling matches played in Kildare prior to the founding of the Association.

It was not until late in 1886 that any more was made in Kildare to form a branch of the Association. A small group of athletes, under the presidency of the late Dr. Smith, Dispensary Doctor of Naas, met at that time, and with promises of support from all parts of the county, decided to run the Football Championship in 1887.

A Long-felt Want.

From the start the Association attracted the youth of the county. Its ideals made a deep appeal to all interested in athletics, and to those who required recreation of an active type. It filled a long felt want. Naturally in the first year there were not many teams in the competition, but four of outstanding merit were—Clane, Naas, Mountrice and Monasterevan. The first-mentioned team had the honour of winning the Championship in '87, and each succeeding year found the rivalry more keen, the Championship passing to different teams each other year.

So keen was the interest taken in the matches, and so popular did the games become, that the chief topic of conversation in the county was—after racing—football. The patronage accorded the games gave them the financial assistance which was required to place the Association on a businesslike footing. Everything was working satisfactorily until an unfortunate accident occurred in 1893, with fatal results.

A young player that year died as the result of rough play. For years the interests of the game suffered. Those who had looked with disfavour on the new movement stressed this accident as a sign of the dangers to be encountered in Gaelic football.

By

P. O Connaillain

The first organisers retired at this critical time, and for years after the Championships were carried out in a haphazard manner. In some years no matches were played, whilst in others the competitions could not be finished owing to the rough and dangerous play indulged in.

Clane, however, had always kept going, and in any year in which the championships had been completed, Clane was always the winner. During these years—prior to the beginning of the century—in inter-county contests, Clane had always represented Kildare.

The colours of Clane, then and now, are All White, and it is for this reason that Kildare County colours are of the lily hue.

Two other teams at this time were fighting with Clane for supremacy—Moorfield and Roseberry—and in 1902, when the best of the Moorfield players secceeded and joined Roseberry, Clane supremacy was nearing an end.

The winning of the County Championship by Roseberry made a vast difference in the fortune of Kildare. The county team was now drawn from both clubs, principally, and the new collation was one of the greatest factors in the popular rising of Gaelic Football in Ireland. Meeting Kerry in the 1903 Championship, Kildare played three matches before the winner could be declared. Tipperary Town and Cork were the venues for these matches, and the older Gaels of Kildare tell vivid stories of the sacrifices made by their followers in attending these matches. That Kildare was badly treated in these matches is declared by those enthusiastic supporters of long ago, and bitter memories are retained of those who in any way were responsible for the unfair treatment of the All Whites.

However, in the 1905 Championship, Kildare reaped the reward of their perseverance, winning the Championship of that year in decisive fashion.

Strange to relate, all those who took part in that Championship are still alive, with one exception—the captain—Jack Murray, of Roseberry, who was accidentally killed a few years ago in New York.

In the Ascendant.

Where is the Gael whose spirits do not rise when he hears the names of Merriman and Cribben, Conlan and Kennedy, Losty and Scott? In their day these were great men, and to-day they are spoken of, in Gaelic circles, with reverence and respect.

That such a great team should have so few victories to its credit is strange, but the team could not be blamed.

The Council in charge were indifferent and lax, and interest, both of player and spectator, waned as a result. For years things went from bad to worse. The football material was there all the time, but those in charge had not the earnestness, nor the interest, to test the material and build a team which would bring the honours to the county. Just prior to the Great War an improvement took place. New officials and committees were appointed and the matter of finance was investigated by a few of the Co. Committee, who saw if some improvement was not made the Association in the county would become defunct. From this time the uprise of Kildare can be reckoned.

A better system of picking the team prevailed, and in '17 and '18 the All Whites were in the ascendant. The 1919 Championship was won from Galway in a memorable match.

The team of that year has been reckoned by many as one of the finest placed on the field by this county. Our inability to hold the Championship was due, not through lack of ambition, but through dissentions in the county. Yet each year found Kildare fielding a vigorous team and perfecting its style. Championship honours could not be long denied such a brilliant combination as Kildare had drawn together in 1924. In 1925 the Leinster Championship was nearly captured, and 1926 found Kildare fielding a team which is considered by all as the most brilliant ever placed on the field. The drawn game in that year's All-Ireland final will stand out as a landmark in G.A.A. history. Until 1931 Kildare dominated the scenes, playing North, South, East and West in Leagues and Tournaments, for the benefit of other counties and clubs. I think there are still no two teams which can rouse such interest as Kerry and Kildare. When these, each kings of their own realms in the fields of football, match clever agility against sturdy adamance, then indeed is a Gaelic game worth watching.

Kildare introduced the finer and more scientific technique that was a treat to see when the lillies brought the ball from goal to goal like rapid flashes of lightning.

Our failure to reading the "writing on the wall" has been our undoing. Time and again have those in charge been warned of the necessity of encouraging the youth, and introducing young, vigorous blood into the personnel of the team. At last the advice has been acted on, and in this, the Jubilee Year, we have brought together a young, vigorous, virile combination, well balanced, with a back-bone of veterans. Our prospects are bright, and those in whose care the welfare of the team is placed realise their responsibilities, and have learned a lesson that youth is the greatest factor in the securing of final honours.

DR. CROKE'S SUCCESSOR SENDS GREETINGS

WE celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the G.A.A. with grateful joy. We remember what the Association has done for Irish games during the past fifty years. Where it found neglect, it has left appreciation and honour. No longer are Gaelic pastimes in oblivion; no longer are foreign games regarded as the hall-mark of perfection; and no longer are Irish ideals and hopes forgotten. To a great extent the G.A.A. is responsible for the new outlook on Irish life. Under the influence of noble men like Davin and Cusack, and aided by the ardent support of patriots like Dr. Croke, the Association has flourished with amazing vigour. Anyone who has witnessed the magnificent enthusiasm that has characterised the final competitions in Croke Park can fully appreciate the resurgent spirit of Ireland. In harmony with the inspiring strains of "Faith of our Fathers" and "The Soldiers' Song," the vast crowds have manifested with glowing pride their love of "Faith and Fatherland" which has always been the watchword of our race. We are grateful to the G.A.A. for the wonderful work which has resulted in these heartening displays. With God's help and our willing co-operation, the Association will persevere in its efforts to make Gaelic games supreme in the land. By its Souvenir of the Golden Jubilee THE IRISH PRESS *is doing its part in arousing an intelligent interest in the progress of the G.A.A.*

✠ *J. M. HARTY.*

THURLES, 14TH MARCH, 1934.

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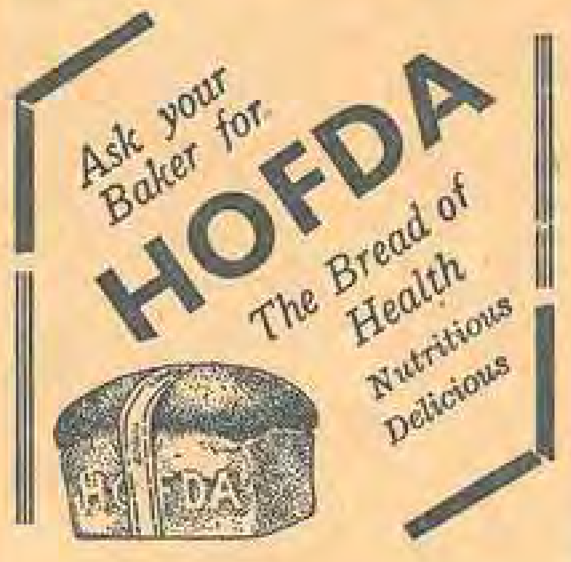

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CARLOW'S PLUCKY FIGHTS RECALLED

(*Continued from page 92.*)

Apart from incidents, the years '89 and '90 were successful ones, but between 1891 and 1897 G.A.A. activity in Carlow almost ceased. The Parnell split and Land League enthusiasm split the people of the county into rival camps, and the co-operation needed to run the Association was absent; to play matches would be to organise riots during such a period. In September, '97, the County was reorganised and the games put in motion, and it is noteworthy that one of the first actions of the reorganised Co. Board was to organise a tournament to provide funds for the '98 Memorial erected to honour the men who laid down their lives for Ireland in the Rebellion of 1798.

From 1897 to 1904 were somewhat difficult years, during which about half-a-dozen clubs kept the games going. The Borris, Tullow, and Carlow Clubs had kept pegging away doggedly, and in 1905 the Carlow Graigue (Graigue Cullen) Young Irelands joined Carlow County, and this year also Tinryland organised and entered the fray. Competition became keener, enthusiasm increased, play improved, and a better sporting spirit began to assert itself. This all-round progress was reflected in improved inter-county displays until in 1910 Carlow beat Dublin and Kildare, and only lost to Louth by one point in the Leinster Championship. During these and subsequent years some of the matches between the Carlow, Tullow, Graigue, Borris, Tinryland, and other teams were amongst the finest played in Ireland.

They produced vigorous, polished footballers, who in 1913 had little difficulty in winning the Leinster championship, only to go down unluckily before Kerry, owing to injuries, in the Junior All-Ireland Final for the same year.

The years preceding the European War were proud ones in the Annals of the Carlow Gaelic Athletic Association. Clubs were not numerous, but those existing were good, and in 1913 a Carlow County Combination was able to draw with, and beat, the Wexford team that in the following years won several All-Ireland Senior Championships.

1915 to 1922 were not good years; neither were they bad. Organisation sometimes lapsed, but when a club became extinct the loss was counterbalanced by the appearance of a club in another quarter. By 1923 Carlow was again good enough to annex a Leinster Junior Championship, before losing to Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final. The 1923 success gave organisation a tremendous impetus, and the past 10 years have witnessed another steady advance that has been crowned by the winning of another Leinster Football Championship in 1933.

To-day there are more G.A.A. clubs in Carlow than at any time in its history. Carlow town alone fields 8 football teams and a hurling team, and clubs flourish in districts where there was no activity ten years ago.

The famous Graiguecullen Club has been included in Leix since 1927 following a disturbance at the Senior Final, in which they engaged that year. Many Carlow Gaels regret their departure; their loss to Carlow is Leix's gain, some of its members playing a grand part in the rising standards of Leix football in recent years.

It would be impossible to do justice to these within the scope of an article, but some of them cannot be passed over. Muinebheag (Bagenalstown) has been in the fray since the inception of the Association and had a hurling team in 1887. Ballon was one of the oldest teams in the county, has lapsed in recent years—Kilbride and Fighting Cocks on either side of it carry on its traditions.

Ballymurphy—the birthplace of the famous Jem Byrne, who helped Wexford to many victories—has had a chequered career, and is still going strong.

Borris, almost continuously in existence since '87, cannot fail while it has the lustre of a Joe Millett and a Bill Doyle to light it on its way. Carlow Town, which, with the exception of a few years, could always point to a McEvoy, Devine, Murray, Hyland, Mulhall, or Walker, to prove they were first-class. Graiguecullen—which forms part of our 50 years' review—is reputed to produce more footballers to the acre than any other acre in Ireland. In Graigue they play football from the cradle to the grave. It would require a Directory to do their great men justice, but while it has Hennessys, Hogans, Callanans, Haughneys, Prices, Slaters, and McDarbys, it will never need a chronicler. Tullow has a place in the niche of fame too, and will stay there while it has Kennys, Lacys, Hogans, Nolans, Bolgers, and Dawsons. The Tinryland-Nurney area has the inspiration of Bradys, Dillons, Murphys, Regans, Haydens, Kanes, and Shines to urge it on to future victories. Leighlinbridge—one of the oldest clubs, has set a grand standard in recent years, and possesses splendid material. Milford and Kilbride have sprung up within the past decade to become doughty fighters and provide a number of outstanding players. The Fighting Cocks—named after the area from which they come—are aptly described by their title. They won the Junior title in 1932, and were unlucky not to win the Senior one in 1933. Palatine—again reorganised—can always look back with pride to the example set by its Dillons, Kavanaghs, Cullens, and Walls. Grange, Clonegal, Hacketstown, and many others deserve equal treatment, but space considerations prevent it.

Although not a hurling county, the game is not dead in Carlow. Muinebheag, Carlow, Tullow and the S.W. part of the county have gallantly tried to keep the game going. The work of the Christian Brothers has done much to popularise it in the three towns named, but generally the position is that hurlers, like poets, are born and not made.

Never a force in inter-county hurling, we can only hope to be when our young hurlers take up the caman as soon as they are big enough to wield it.

Altogether, Carlow has contributed its share to the growth and development of the G.A.A. Some of the Grand Old Men who put the Association in motion are still hale and hearty. Father Lawlor, who retired from the Presidency of the Co. Committee in 1933, and who set the first football in motion in 1886, is still a guiding force, and Mr. Tom Little is Vice-President of the Co. Committee, after upwards of 40 years' splendid service. They are typical of many of our good sportsmen who, while they advance in years, remain young in spirit. It is noteworthy that during the 50 years that have passed that the men who have been associated with the G.A.A. have also played useful parts in other spheres of National activity. The late Michael Governey, of Carlow, was identified with the formation of the Carlow club, and was one of the practical pioneers of Irish Industrial Development. Throughout the half-century that has passed Carlow Gaels have given consistent service to the National and Language Causes, and to Local Government and Social Reform.

There have been differences, dissentions, and honest animosities arising from local patriotism, but they have passed into history or oblivion.

The lessons of the past have not gone unheeded, and the games for their own sake is the spirit in which we greet the future.

THE EASTER OF 'SIXTEEN

As a Dublin Gaelic Club Saw it

THE formation of the Croke Gaelic Club coincided with that period in 1904 when the nation was taking to itself the fundamental work of future Ireland. Along with the Gaelic League such clubs were responsible for the furtherance of any movement that had for its object the complete Gaelicisation of the country.

The club was founded and took the name of the illustrious Archbishop Croke. No doubt the fact that some Tipperarymen were its first members had the dual effect of having this name as well as the fact that the Archbishop had done so much for the G.A.A. and the Gaelic movement generally.

Two other clubs had also a hand in the making of the Crokes, "Hy-Brassil" and "An Craobhin." The former emanated from the James's Street district and many of the members were attending the James's Street Christian Brothers' Schools. The first lessons in the Irish language were taught here and before the Croke Club became affiliated to the G.A.A. some of its members played the foreign game. The turnover to the Gaelic idea was, however, complete and up to 1917 the club had much to say to the history of the intervening years.

How a small number could have influenced the policy of a country would perhaps seem somewhat in the nature of an impossibility.

Certain, however, it is that the members as a whole laid out for themselves a programme which was faithfully adhered to during the life of the Cummain.

G.A.A. The Medium.

Affiliated to the G.A.A. only is not to be taken as an indication that the work was confined to the playing of football and hurling. The programme consisted of everything that was possible to carry on from the cultural and historical viewpoint. The officers had also become imbued with the ideal of a free and independent Ireland and

with that object in view the members were to be found in many phases of the national life of the country.

Of first importance was the question of teaching and learning the Irish language, supporting of Irish industries and, of course, the promotion of Irish-Ireland ideas. In another article in this issue will be found the fruits of the work undertaken by the club in the organising of Camoguidheacht. While victories in the field were few the club was noted for its consistent endeavour to win by pure grit and determination.

The members were many young and energetic, and many played both football and hurling on the one day.

In 1905-6 the team won its way to the Junior Final but failed to annex the championship. It was then decided to go a step higher and the Intermediate League was tried. There the team played its best games.

Here a curious coincidence occurred when the team was beaten in all its games except one by a margin of two points.

In 1907-8 the "Smith Cup" was won and in 1908-9 the Edward Martyn Cup was secured for the Intermediate League. In hurling, the Middle League was won in 1905-6 and the Junior Championship in 1909-10. At this period the Leinster Junior Championship was started and five Dublin. One member assisted the Kickhams in the Second members were selected to assist Parnells to win for Division of the Hurling Championship.

The team did not achieve national honours and, indeed, had a short life in the Senior competitions.

The club also had language classes each week and on Saturday and Sunday nights Irish dances were the order. The annual ceilidhe was an event of much importance and was one of the Irish social events of the season.

Seán O Dubhthaigh was one of the "Crokes" who fought in the Rising in the North King Street area. He now guides the destinies of Camóguiocht.

Public excursions as well as seiligs to various parts were regular features of the life of the club.

No member was permitted wear anything but Irish manufacture, and it might well be said that the club was the pioneer of the Irish Industrial Revival. Another item that made the club noteworthy was the staging of plays of Irish authorship, and the performance of *An Dochtúir* as well as the *Matchmakers* was largely attended and greatly enjoyed.

In October, 1912, a big discussion took place with regard to the sale of the Jones's Road Grounds (now Croke Park) and all Gaels were interested.

The Croke Club took a prominent part in the deliberations.

A conference took place and details were left in the hands of a small committee. The members agreed to take one pound share if the project of purchasing was proceeded with.

The members were foremost in a movement to have Jones's Road dedicated to the Archbishop and vowed that while a monument to his memory would be of importance, the ground at Jones's Road or a large hall would ever keep his name before the Gaels of Ireland. A special meeting was held to consider a circular from the Davis H.C. in a grant to the officers in charge of the Croke Memorial Fund. Strong criticism was made, as all work was understood to be of a voluntary nature.. A resolution as follows was passed:—

> "That we the members of the Croke Gaelic Club strongly urge on the Central Council to give effect to the widely-expressed wishes of the G.A.A. that the Croke Memorial should take the form of its purchasing a ground which would keep the name of Dr. Croke perpetually in the forefront of the Association."

From 1912 to 1916 the club continued to work well for the G.A.A. and some changes took place in the personnel. Some left the country owing to emigration and many joined the Irish Volunteers at the inaugural meeting held in the Rotunda Rink. Indeed, it was with difficulty the club remained intact but members, although taking up the dual role, worked hard.

A meeting was held in March, 1916, to consider how the club could be raised to its past prestige and various views expressed. It was proposed to have a stop-watch competition and the present writer proposed to give a watch for the project.

Details were left over till the "next meeting." This minute was signed on April 19th, 1916.

With the Irish Volunteers taking up much of the time of the members from 1913 on, and the many parades, route marches, etc., interfering with the games fixed, the club were not so successful. Indeed,

on the occasion of the Howth Gun Running nearly all the team had to get special permission (beforehand, of course) to play a match at Jones's Road.

Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday saw the activities of the Irish Volunteers taking a phenomonal shape, and all were fully equipped to get the "Prize" for the Easter Sunday parade. The disappointment of the Sunday was made up for on Easter Monday. On our way to the Hall we passed many of the members, each going to his place of mobilization.

Of the total number of approximately forty members, thirty-two turned out in the fight for Irish freedom.

Such was the accurate estimates made up when all save two returned several months afterwards. I have tried to recollect the names, but failed to get the lot. Let us breathe a silent prayer for the two brave boys, **Phil Walsh and Seán Owens**, the former killed in North King Street and the latter at the South Dublin Union. They did not return; but let us work for the cause for which they died.

In 1917 the team was again drawn together, and after a successful year won the Junior Hurling Championship. Later, and in the second long and glorious fight, the Crokes were again in the forefront, and the leaders of the day paid many a tribute to the work of the "Gunchers," as some of the boys were called. Of those who were subsequently killed in action, Paddy O'Brien, O.C. of the Four Courts, was one.

The Crokes were typical of the spirit and aims that should animate us all as members of the Gaelic Athletic Association of to-day.

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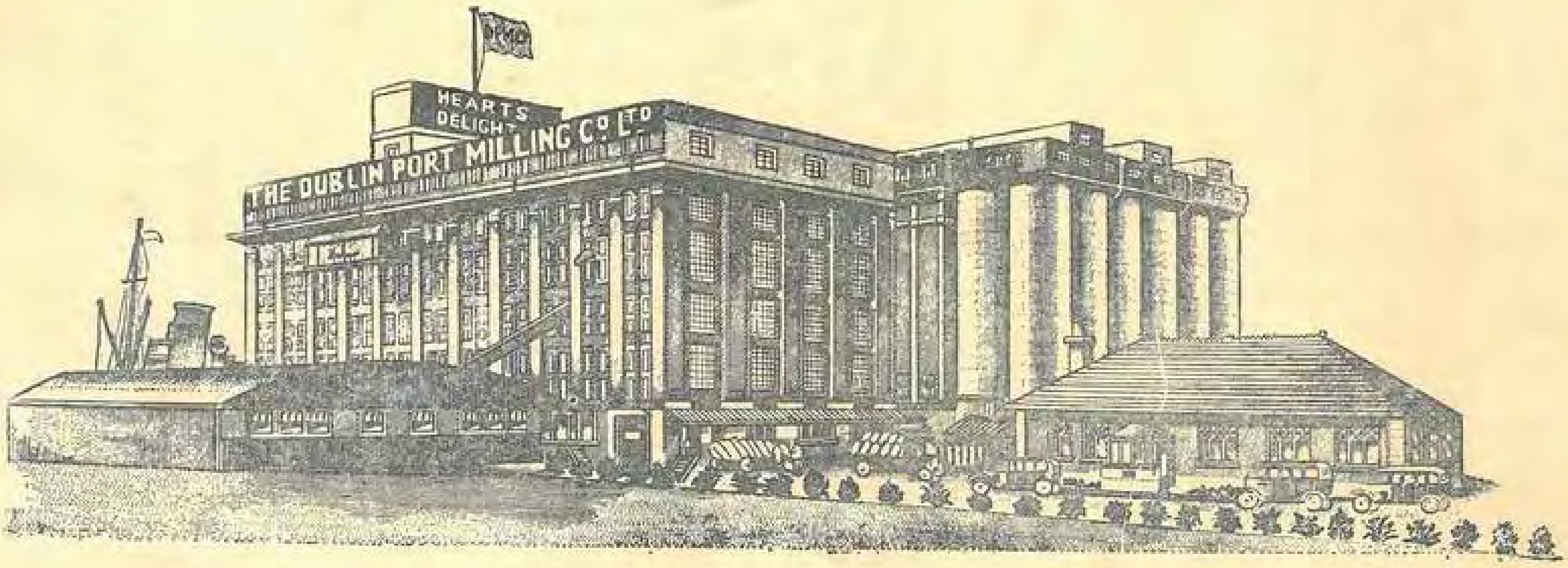
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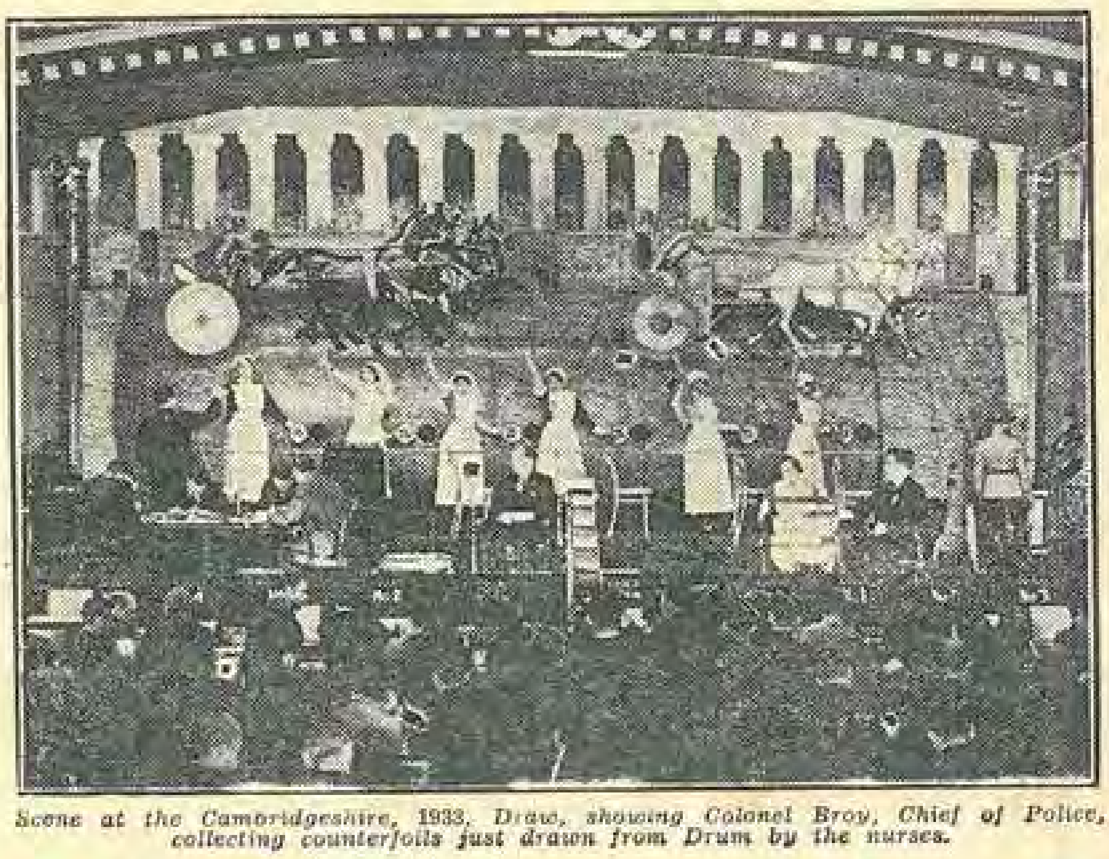

Scene at the Cambridgeshire, 1933, Draw, showing Colonel Broy, Chief of Police, collecting counterfoils just drawn from Drum by the nurses.

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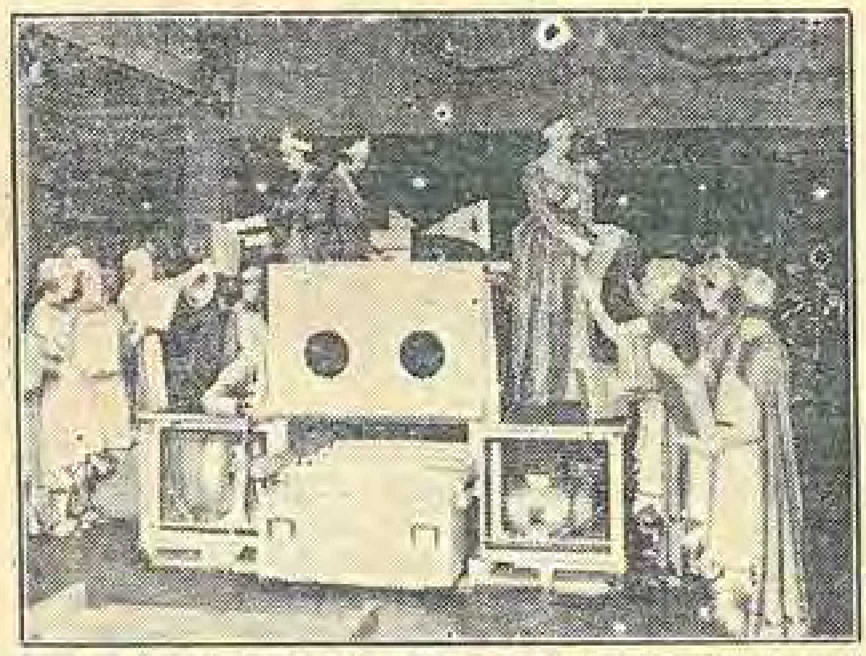

Scene at the Mixing Machine showing girls in international period costumes putting counterfoils into machine.

Cambridgeshire, 1933. Street scene showing transport of counterfoils to scene of Draw. The huge horse represents the Horse of Troy.

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